



United States Department of Agriculture

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Volume 2

Yavapai and Coconino Counties, Arizona



Forest Service

Southwestern Region

MB-R3-09-05

June 2015

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Printed on recycled paper – June 2015

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Volume 2

Yavapai and Coconino Counties, Arizona

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service

Responsible Official: Cal Joyner, Regional Forester
333 Broadway Blvd., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 842-3292

For Information Contact: Teresa A. Chase, Forest Supervisor
Prescott National Forest Supervisor's Office
2971 Willow Creek Rd, Bldg. 4
Prescott, AZ 86301
(928) 443-8000
Prescott National Forest Web page - Contact Us:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/contactus/prescott/about-forest/contactus>

Abstract: This environmental impact statement discloses the detailed analysis of each of the five alternatives for revising the 1987 "Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan" (1987 plan). The analysis displays each alternative's anticipated progress toward the desired conditions as well as its potential environmental and social consequences. Alternative A represents no change to the 1987 plan (as amended). Alternative B emphasizes citizen collaboration; it was developed to address identified needs for change in existing plan direction including: ecosystem restoration, watershed integrity, sustainable recreation, fish habitat, and open space. Alternative C is similar to alternative B, but it places greater emphasis on ecosystem restoration and wildlife viability. Alternative D is also similar to alternative B, but it places greater emphasis on dispersed recreation opportunities. In response to comments received between the draft and final versions of the EIS, alternative E was developed as the final revised plan (selected). It is a modified version of alternative B, with a more modest emphasis on recreation and additional clarity of direction for watershed management, forest access, and land acquisitions.

Contents

Appendix A. Response to Comments.....	1
Contents	1
Content Analysis Process	2
Concern Statements and Agency Responses	6
Appendix B. Description of the Analysis Process	75
Evaluation of Potential Wilderness Areas	75
Evaluation of Potential Research Natural Areas.....	83
Evaluation of Eligible Rivers for Wild and Scenic River Designation.....	83
Determination of Suitability for Recreation Opportunities.....	84
Determination of Suitability for Livestock Grazing	87
Determination of Suitability for Timber Production.....	89
Terrestrial Ecosystem Sustainability Analysis.....	93
References	127
Appendix C. Coordination with Other Planning Efforts.....	131
Local Government Plans	131
State of Arizona	145
Federal Agencies	155
Tribes.....	161
References	163
Appendix D. Comment Letters Submitted by Government Agencies	167
Appendix E. Crosswalk of direction between the 1987 Plan and the revised Plan.....	193
Appendix F. Index of Other Supporting EIS Documentation.....	341

List of Figures

Figure 1. Recommended wilderness for alternatives A and C	79
Figure 2. Recommended wilderness for alternative B	80
Figure 3. Recommended wilderness for alternative D	81
Figure 4. Recommended wilderness for alternative E.....	82
Figure 5. Semi-Desert Grassland.....	96
Figure 6. Great Basin Grassland.....	98
Figure 7. Juniper Grassland.....	99
Figure 8. Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub	100
Figure 9. Piñon-Juniper Woodland.....	101
Figure 10. Interior Chaparral	102
Figure 11. Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak.....	103
Figure 12. Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak	104
Figure 13. Desert Communities.....	106
Figure 14. Riparian Gallery Forest.....	107

List of Tables

Table 1. People and organizations who provided comments	3
Table 2. Potential Wilderness Evaluation.....	77
Table 3. Upper Verde River Wild and Scenic River eligibility.....	84
Table 4. Recreation Suitability Matrix	86

Table 5. Grazing capability	87
Table 6. Grazing suitability	88
Table 7. Acres tentatively suitable for timber production	90
Table 8. Acres not appropriate for timber production by alternative	90
Table 9. Acres suitable for timber production by alternative	91
Table 10. Annual volume production	92
Table 11. Allowable sale quantity by alternative	93
Table 12. Potential natural vegetation types (PNVTs) of the Prescott NF	93
Table 13. PNVT states and class proportions	95
Table 14. Average annual treatment acres for alternative A	110
Table 15. Lower-end average annual treatment acres for alternatives B and E	110
Table 16. Higher-end average annual treatment acres for alternatives B and E	110
Table 17. Lower-end average annual treatment acres for alternative C	110
Table 18. Higher-end average annual treatment acres for alternative C	111
Table 19. Lower-end average annual treatment acres for alternative D	111
Table 20. Higher-end average annual treatment acres for alternative D	111
Table 21. Number of Prescott NF watersheds by condition class indicator	113
Table 22. Overall watershed and sub-watershed conditions	113
Table 23. Plan components addressing species viability concerns	116
Table 24. Projected change in recreation visitation by alternative	123
Table 25. Objectives or concerns from local government plans and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds	132
Table 26. Yavapai County goals and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds	143
Table 27. Coconino County goals and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds	145
Table 28. Selected goals and objectives from AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20) and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds	148
Table 29. Elements from the <i>State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)</i> and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds	149
Table 30. Selected goals and objectives from Arizona Forest Resource Assessment and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds	154
Table 31. Comparison of Federal resource management plans	158
Table 32. Crosswalk of direction found in the 1987 plan and the revised plan	194

Appendix A. Response to Comments

Contents

Content Analysis Process.....	2
Concern Statements and Agency Responses.....	6
Access.....	7
Air Quality	8
Alternatives.....	8
Climate	11
Consultation, Coordination, Collaboration, and Outreach.....	12
Economics.....	16
Editorial.....	17
Fire Management	18
Forest Products.....	20
Grazing.....	22
Inventoried Roadless Areas.....	27
Lands, Open Space, and Scenic Values	28
Law Enforcement	30
Management Areas.....	30
Minerals.....	31
Miscellaneous Comments.....	32
Monitoring	37
Publications.....	39
Recreation	41
Research Natural Areas.....	47
Vegetation Management	48
Watersheds.....	52
Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers.....	55
Wildlife	60
References	72

This appendix documents the Prescott NF responses to substantive comments that were received during the 90-day comment period for the Draft Land and Resources Management Plan (plan or forest plan) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A notice of availability was posted in the Federal Register on August 31, 2012, by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the “Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Prescott NF Land and Resource Management Plan” (DEIS). This initiated the comment period, which ended on November 28, 2012. The Forest Service received correspondence from 116 individuals, organizations, and agencies. These comments have been analyzed and responded to using a process called content analysis, described below.

Consistent with the direction found at 40 CFR §1503.4 the comment letters received from government agencies can be viewed in their entirety in appendix D. The project record contains an electronic version of all correspondence received on the DEIS in their entirety.

Responses¹ to each of the substantive comments resulted in one of the following agency actions:

- Modifying the proposed plan and alternatives;
- Developing or analyzing alternatives not given detailed consideration in the DEIS;
- Supplementing, improving, or modifying the analysis that the DEIS documented;
- Making factual corrections; and/or
- Explaining why the comments need no further agency response.

Content Analysis Process

The content analysis process consisted of scanning, coding, and entering all correspondence received during the comment period into an electronic database for further sorting and analysis. This process ensured that every comment was read, analyzed, and considered.

All correspondence items were assigned a unique contact number (see table 1 below). As each correspondence was reviewed, comments were identified and numbered sequentially. Similar comments were then grouped together and for each group a concern statement was developed. The following is an example of a concern statement and a sampling of the comments that were grouped together to develop it.

Concern Statement: “The Forest Service should not recommend any Potential Wilderness Areas for wilderness designation.”

- **Comment:** “The concerns I have are the PNF's proposals to create and designate more wilderness.”
- **Comment:** “One of the alternatives (Alternative B) the Forest is recommending creates eight new wilderness areas. We are adamantly opposed to any more new wilderness areas.”
- **Comment:** “We are against any efforts of the Prescott National Forest to propose more wilderness areas on the National Forest in the new Forest planning process.”

¹ A spreadsheet containing a complete list of public comments received on the DEIS and their corresponding concern statements and agency responses is available on the Prescott NF Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement.

Concern statements are meant to capture the thought, idea, or issue common to all of the associated comments. They most often represent the view of many respondents, but may also be derived from just one person's input. Concern statements are intended to aid the planning team in characterizing the issues to be analyzed in subsequent stages of the planning process. They also provide the framework for preparing responses to public comment.

Table 1. People and organizations who provided comments

Contact #	Contact Name	Organization
1	Sanford Cohen	Prescott Open Trails Association
2	Douglas Kearney	American Tower Corporation
3	jean public	
4	jean public	
5	Bruce D. McKeeman	
6	David Lloyd	
7	Matt Holdsworth	
8	Brian Kleinman	
9	Oliver Daniren	
10	Karen Austermiller	
11	Chris Dunn	
12	Ryan Brown	
13	Nigel Reynolds	
14	Don Worfolk	
15	Lora Lee Nye	Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition
16	Stephan Block	
17	Suzanne Moeller	
18	Celia Vander Molen	
19	Cathy Schultz	
20	unsigned	
21	unsigned	
22	unsigned	
23	unsigned	
24	Brian Bishop	
25	Tim Carlson	
26	Ken Jones	
27	Douglas Kearney	

Contact #	Contact Name	Organization
28	George Sheats	
29	Harold R. Sitton	
30	Kathleen Martyn Goforth	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
31	Chris Plumb	Arizona Trail Riders
32	Sam Southam	
33	Matt McNairy	
34	George Sheats	Yavapai Trails Association
35	Steve Block	Mingus Area Preservation Society
36	Clint Brown	
37	Don Godard	
38	Sarah and Marty Boland	
39	Holly and Kyle Shanahan	
40	Randy and Marsha East	
41	Doug and Dez Noble	
42	Bob Utter	
43	Melvin Manrose	
44	D. Remington Hawes	Bureau of Land Management
45	Suzanna McDougal	
46	Lorrie Smith	
47	Gayle R. Higgs	Back Country Horsemen of Arizona
48	Doris Cellarius	
49	Gmookher	
50	Ian Wickson	
51	John Lupo	
52	Patrick Kell	
53	Tammy DeWitt	Yavapai County Development Services
54	John Shumaker	
55	Donna Crisfield	
56	Andy Groseta	Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
57	Dave Sewell	
58	Ann H. May	Prescott NF
59	Paul Groseta	

Contact #	Contact Name	Organization
60	Kurt Refsnider	
61	Caroline Soong	
62	G. D. Kidd	
63	Doug Hiserodt	
64	William Broadfoot	
65	Mike Munroe	
66	John Parsons	
67	Richard Yetman	
68	Sandra Goodwin	
69	Ron J. Andress	
70	Rob Hehlen	
71	Greg Ooley	
72	Gary Mitchell	Yavapai Cattle Growers' Association
73	Russ Taylor	
74	Chris Thiel	Prescott NF
75	Kurt Wetzstein	Prescott NF
76	Gary Janchik	
77	Charles and Carol Hicks	
78	Bonnie J. McCoy	
79	Susie Hehlen	
80	Pete Gordon	Prescott NF
81	Patricia Sanderson Port	U.S. Department of the Interior
82	Bob Rothrock	Verde Valley Land Preservation
83	James B "Jim" Buchanan	
84	Tom Mackin	Arizona Wildlife Federation
85	Thomas Slaback and Gary D. Beverly	Sierra Club Yavapai Group
86	James M. Webb	
87	Jean Focke	
88	Brad DeVries	
89	Gregg Payne	
90	Dwayne Warrick	
91	J.D. Greenberg	

Contact #	Contact Name	Organization
92	Linda L. Jackson	Prescott NF
93	Sam Frank	Arizona Wilderness Coalition
94	Patrick Kell	International Mountain Bicycling Association
95	R.D. Pascoe	Access Fund
96	Anna M. Aja	
97	Mary Hoadley	Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership
98	Andy Groseta	Groseta Ranches LLC
99	Toni Kaus	
100	Dustin Van Liew	Public Lands Council
101	Gail Luedtke	
102	Rick Erman	The Friends of Anderson Mesa
103	Lars Romig	Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition
104	Erik B. Ryberg	Western Watersheds Project
105	Eric Nelson	
106	Jay Lininger	Center for Biological Diversity
107	Paul Katan	
108	Tim Flood	Friends of Arizona Rivers
109	Henry Dahlberg	
110	John N. Pogledich	Friends of Arizona Trails
111	Cathy Schultz	
112	Bob Rothrock	
113	Bob Rothrock	Verde Valley Land Preservation
114	Tim Finley	Arizona Game and Fish Department
115	Debra Vernam	Friends of Arizona Trails
116	Clare G. Ross	Friends of Arizona Trails

Concern Statements and Agency Responses

Concern statements and corresponding agency responses displayed in this section are organized alphabetically by topic (e.g., Access, Air Quality, Climate, Fire Management, Grazing, Recreation, Watersheds, Wilderness, Wildlife). A code is used for each concern statement which includes an abbreviation of the topic it relates to and its sequential number. For example, “Concern ACC-01” is the code for the first concern statement listed under the topic of “Access.” Included at the end of each concern statement, in parentheses, are numbers identifying the persons or organizations associated with each concern statement and the corresponding comment.

For example, the code (11.09) identifies contact number 11, Chris Dunn, and comment number nine.

Access

Concern ACC-01: The Forest Service should improve access to public lands where private owners have blocked historical access (11.09).

Response: In response to public comments and internal deliberation, a new alternative (alternative E) was developed and analyzed as the selected alternative for the revised plan. This alternative contains a new objective (Objective 30) addressing concerns over the loss of historic access to Prescott NF land. It states:

Identify and act on up to 10 opportunities to secure legal access to areas where historic access to the national forest has been lost, within the 10 years following plan approval.

This objective will be included as part of the revised plan for the Prescott NF.

Concern ACC-02: The Forest Service should consider and address the social and economic impacts of the public access proposed in this plan (1.02; 1.04; 36.02; 36.11; 73.02).

Response: As stated in the response above, a new alternative (Alternative E) was developed as the selected alternative for the revised plan. This alternative contains a new objective (Objective 30) to respond to concerns over the loss of historic access to Prescott NF land.

The impacts and consequences of implementing the direction contained in this new public access objective were analyzed in the Need for Change 5 section of Chapter 3 of the EIS. Discussion of motorized access for big game retrieval is found in the Dispersed Recreation portion of the Need for Change 3 section. Other access issues specifically related to the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR §212.56) and the Prescott NF Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) are outside the scope of the decision being made and are not addressed in the EIS.

Concern ACC-03: The Forest Service should clarify if there is any guidance in the revised plan on vehicle parking along open roads for day-use on the Prescott NF (114.23).

Response: Guidance found within the revised forest plan is directed toward agency actions and decisions. It is not intended to be a source of public uses and prohibitions as found elsewhere in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.

The revised plan does include guidance to the agency consistent with the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR §212.56) identifying the Motorized Vehicle Use Map as the instrument for identifying which roads, trails and areas are open. Standard-Rec-01 states:

Only designated roads, motorized trails, and motorized use areas as depicted and described on the motor vehicle use map are open to public motorized vehicle use.

The most current Motor Vehicle Use Map is the legal instrument for identifying which National Forest System roads, trails and the areas on National Forest System lands in the Prescott NF that are designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 36 CFR §212.51. Additional motor vehicle use

and prohibitions on National Forest System lands are defined in the Code of Federal Regulations at Title 36 Part 212 (Travel Management) and Title 36 Part 261 (Prohibitions).

Air Quality

Concern AQ-01: The Forest Service should provide baseline visibility data and how it can this be projected into the future, and justification for why only Sycamore and Pine Mountain Wilderness areas are mentioned as Class 1 Federal areas (59.08).

Response: The baseline visibility data associated with the Airsheds section of the revised plan are referenced in the EIS, Chapter 3, Smoke and Air Quality section and found in the “Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Air Quality Specialist Report” (Forest Service, 2011b). The Air Quality Specialist Report can be accessed on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site at: (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement). Current and reference visibility conditions, as well as projected future trends, are documented through the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) program for all mandatory federal Class 1 areas (see www.vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/). The Regional Haze Rule (40 CFR Part 51) promulgated in 1999 by the EPA, calls for state and federal agencies to work together to improve visibility in all Class I areas by establishing emission reduction strategies. The national visibility goal is to return each Class I area to natural visibility conditions by 2064. Visibility is expected to improve through inter-agency implementation of the Regional Haze Rule and corresponding State Implementation Plans.

It is true that all eight of the existing wilderness areas on the Prescott NF are larger than 5,000 acres, but when Congress designated all wilderness areas over 5,000 acres and all national parks over 6,000 acres as mandatory federal Class I areas, in 1977, only Sycamore Canyon and Pine Mountain wilderness areas were designated at the time. The other six wilderness areas on the Prescott NF were designated after 1977. That is why only Sycamore and Pine Mountain Wilderness areas are identified as Class 1 Federal areas.

Alternatives

Concern ALT-01: The Forest Service should adopt Alternative A (23.01; 46.05; 69.01; 86.02).

Response: Alternative A was not selected as the revised plan. Analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) showed that current forest plan direction (alternative A) was not sufficient to meet the Needs for Change established at the start of the plan revision process. Therefore, it was determined that alternative A was unsuitable to provide future plan direction.

Concern ALT-02: The Forest Service should adopt Alternative B (14.01; 16.01; 21.1; 25.01; 25.02; 25.03; 47.01; 47.02; 47.03; 47.05; 53.01; 82.02; 112.01).

Response: Alternative B was not selected as the revised Forest Plan. During the 90-day open comment period for the draft EIS, concerns were raised by both internal and external commenters about access to the forest for public and administrative use and the ability to fund the proposed recreation program under projected declining budget scenarios. The Prescott NF Leadership Team felt that these issues were not sufficiently addressed in any of the existing alternatives. A new alternative (alternative E) evolved through modifications to alternative B to become a separate alternative and was identified by the Prescott NF Leadership Team as the revised Forest Plan.

Alternative E differs from the other action alternatives with a more modest emphasis on recreation and additional guidance for watersheds, forest access, and land acquisitions. Vegetation treatments would be the same as those in alternative B, as would the emphasis on pronghorn and native fish habitat recovery.

Alternative E also recommends eight of twenty-eight potential wilderness areas for future wilderness designation. These areas are Apache Creek A PWA, Castle Creek PWA, Cedar Bench A PWA, Cedar Bench B PWA, Juniper Mesa PWA, Pine Mountain B PWA, Sycamore Canyon A PWA, and Woodchute PWA. These PWAs were selected by the Prescott NF Leadership Team to complement the desired conditions stated in the revised plan and to minimize the disruption of existing access for recreation and administrative use while still addressing the public's desire to expand the existing wilderness opportunities. All eight PWAs are contiguous to existing designated wilderness and will increase the quantity and diversity of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities on the Prescott NF while maintaining existing access for mountain bikes on Mingus Mountain and recognizing the operational needs of livestock-grazing permittees.

Concern ALT-03: The Forest Service should adopt Alternative C (11.01; 11.05; 17.01; 19.01; 26.01; 29.01; 31.01; 38.05; 40.04; 41.05; 46.02; 46.06; 54.01; 60.10; 87.01; 98.05; 100.05; 112.02; 114.22).

Response: Alternative C was not selected as the revised Forest Plan. Although analysis in the DEIS showed that alternative C was sufficient to meet the Needs for Change, concerns were raised by both internal and external commenters during the 90-day open comment period that led to the development of a new alternative (alternative E). Alternative E was identified by the Prescott NF Leadership Team as the revised Forest Plan as it better addressed the issues of access to the forest for public and administrative use and the ability to fund the proposed recreation program under projected declining budget scenarios.

Concern ALT-04: The Forest Service should adopt Alternative D (10.01; 18.01; 21.02; 22.01; 24.01; 27.01; 67.01; 68.01; 77.01)

Response: Alternative D was not selected as the revised Forest Plan. Although analysis in the DEIS showed that alternative D was sufficient to meet the Needs for Change, concerns were raised by both internal and external commenters during the 90-day open comment period that led to the development of a new alternative (alternative E). Alternative E was identified by the Prescott NF Leadership Team as the revised Forest Plan as it better addressed the issues of access to the forest for public and administrative use and the ability to fund the proposed recreation program under projected declining budget scenarios.

Concern ALT-05: The range of alternatives analyzed in the EIS is inadequate as it does not address the purpose and need or the issues (104.16).

Response: The EIS documented five different alternatives for revising the 1987 plan that were considered in detail and an additional five that were considered but not analyzed. The scope of the decision was limited to revisiting those portions of the current Forest Plan that needed modification, correction, or creation of direction that was lacking. All four action alternatives (alternatives B, C, D, and E) addressed the recommended needs for change, responded to issues and concerns raised during the scoping period, and met the legal requirements of NFMA and the provisions of the 1982 Planning Rule.

While it's true that there are elements common to all alternatives as disclosed on page 12-14 of the EIS; it's also true that there are measurable differences between the action alternatives in regard to the objectives (the set of actions for achieving desired conditions) and the areas recommended as future wilderness. These differences include a range of environmental consequences. The tables at the end of chapter 2 of the EIS highlight the differences among the alternatives by comparing the plan components and how each alternative responds to the identified needs for change.

Concern ALT-06: The Forest Service should consider creating an alternative in the EIS that will prohibit new road construction; require road density reduction to less than 2 miles per square mile in each fifth field watershed; and prioritize road removal in riparian areas associated with aquatic ecosystems. (106.50).

Response: An alternative that would prohibit new road construction and require a reduction in road density was considered, but dismissed from analysis because it is duplicative of the action alternatives already considered in detail. The current road density (including motorized trails) of the Prescott National Forest is less than 0.97 miles per square mile and all of the action alternatives include direction to minimize, but not prohibit, new road construction.

Concern ALT-07: The Forest Service should consider and analyze the environmental impacts of an alternative that responds to the changing climate due to greenhouse gases. (106.26; 106.27).

Response: As noted in the Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study section of Chapter 2 of the EIS, the alternative suggested was considered, but dismissed from analysis because it is duplicative of the action alternatives already considered in detail. All the action alternatives are designed to address climate change as all include maintaining and restoring the health and resilience of ecosystems so that they may withstand climate change and other stressors. This allows the Responsible Official to select any alternative or a combination of alternatives and still have it be responsive to climate change.

Concern ALT-08: The Forest Service should consider and analyze at least one alternative that maximizes long term vegetative health through a hands-off approach and a conservative strategy toward grazing that minimizes the damage from livestock grazing (104.16a).

Response: The alternative suggested was considered, but dismissed from analysis because a "hands-off" approach is contrary to the best available science that recommends active restoration efforts to maximize long term vegetative health. A "hands-off" approach would be insufficient to build the adaptive capacity and resilience needed to respond to expected changes in climate and other stressors.

All of the action alternatives are designed to address long term vegetative health as all include desired condition statements of how the various vegetation types on the Prescott NF should look and function. All of the action alternatives include standards and guidelines that minimize potential damage from livestock grazing. Management action is necessary to trend the ecosystems on the Prescott NF towards the desired conditions and strengthen ecosystem resilience in the face of expected changes in the climate of the Southwest.

Climate

Concern CL-01: The Forest Service should describe how climate change affects the national forest lands and resources (30.05; 106.29).

Response: Anticipated climate change effects to national forest lands and resources are described throughout the EIS in the following sections of Chapter 3: Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptation to Changing Climate Conditions; Ecosystem Responses to Changing Climate; Riparian Areas, Seeps, and Springs; Watershed Resilience to Climate Change; Recreation Trends on the Prescott NF; Recreation Management Response to Climate Change.

Concern CL-02: The Forest Service should address how the plan will adapt if the predicted trends do not come to pass and the climate modeling is wrong (35.11; 59.11).

Response: As noted in Chapter 2 of the revised plan, the desired conditions for ecosystem resilience (DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1) assist plant and animal communities with building the ability and capacity to adapt while retaining the same basic structure and function. This is in order to accommodate expected changes imposed by future climate trends for the Southwest. This strengthening of resilience and adaptive capacity is expected to be achieved through actions initiated in support of the restoration of vegetation structure, vegetation composition, and appropriate fire regimes to ecosystems on the Prescott NF. The guidance and direction in the revised plan is not dependent on the future direction of climate trends; strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity would benefit ecosystems under all climate modeling scenarios.

Concern CL-03: The Forest Service should assess more than the degree of fire regime departure from historical conditions and disclose the implications of climate change on wildland fire effects and management options in the future (106.30; 106.45; 106.56).

Response: Within Chapter 3 of the EIS, the Need for Change 1 section summarizes current terrestrial ecosystem conditions and the consequences of implementing the revised plan and its alternatives. The Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptation to Changing Climate Conditions section under the Affected Environment for Vegetation and Fire discloses the implications of climate change on wildland fire, ecosystem processes, and management options to improve ecosystem resilience.

The ecological implications of expected climate change and supporting science disclosed in the EIS includes discussions of several elements including and beyond just fire regime departure:

- More extreme disturbance events, wildfires, intense rain and wind events, etc.
- Greater vulnerability to invasive species, including insects, plants, fungi, and vertebrates.
- Long term shifts in vegetation patterns.
- Shifts in the geographic range of several tree and shrub species northward and upward in elevation.
- Limited overall forest productivity from reduced precipitation.

Concern CL-04: The Forest Service should establish criteria for the restoration of forest vegetation that accounts for the variability of conditions associated with climate change (106.51).

Response: Criteria for the restoration of forest vegetation that accounts for the variability of conditions associated with climate change is included in Chapter 2 of the revised Plan. For each potential natural vegetation type (PNVT) there are one to many desired condition statements that describe the composition and structure that is desired under warmer and drier conditions.

Concern CL-05: The Forest Service should develop a pro-active drought policy and put it in the new Plan (102.48).

Response: Developing a drought policy for the Prescott NF is outside the scope of the plan revision process in part because the Regional Forester does not have the authority to develop such policy. That authority resides at the national level with input from the research branch of the Forest Service. Despite the absence of any specific “drought policy” the revised plan considered the implications of climate change on ecosystem characteristics and processes, and management options to improve ecosystem resilience when developing desired conditions and associated objectives for vegetation, watersheds and wildlife.

Concern CL-06: The Forest Service should reconsider using the word "all" in the following sentence found under desired conditions for Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change: "Ecosystems retain ALL of their components, processes, and functions." (109.03).

Response: The Forest Service considered, but no changes were made to the desired condition statements for Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change between the draft and final versions of the revised plan. Desired conditions describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function, and future management is expected to help the Prescott NF trend toward the desired conditions. The planning team felt that the term “all” was important to keep as part of the desired condition statement as it provides context for future management under a changing climate. Future adaptive management, including assessments and monitoring, will help to identify ecosystem vulnerability to climate-driven and nonclimate stressors and to detect signals of changing conditions to ecosystem components, processes, and functions that would trigger readjustments of our management actions.

Consultation, Coordination, Collaboration, and Outreach

CCC & O - General

Concern CCCO-01: The forest plan revision process has benefitted from the use of an open, inclusive and collaborative approach (35.02; 97.01).

Response: Agreed. The Prescott NF has strived to use collaborative approaches to engage the general public, stakeholders, key State and Federal agencies, and representatives from local jurisdictions in the development of the revised plan. The Public Involvement and Collaborative Planning section in chapter 1 of the EIS outlines specific efforts the Prescott NF has engaged in since the onset of plan revision to inform and involve citizens. Additionally, Appendix C of the EIS, Coordination with Other Planning Efforts, outlines management concerns and direction from adjacent communities, Yavapai and Coconino Counties, and several State and Federal agencies and explains how the Prescott NF revised plan responds to and aligns with their planning efforts.

Concern CCCO-02: The Forest Service should add a guideline stating that agency representatives should actively and routinely participate in local community organizations for the purpose of representing the interests and protecting the resources of Prescott NF managed public lands (85.10).

Response: The Forest Service did not add a guideline directing agency participation in local community organizations to the revised plan. It was determined that the intent of this suggestion is already addressed in the Management Approaches section within Appendix B of the revised plan, where it discusses citizen collaboration and volunteer efforts along with Forest Service cooperation with Tribal groups and agencies.

Concern CCCO-03: The Forest Service should consider collaborating with others (such as the Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy) on the efforts to make large scale landscape improvements. (114.14).

Response: The Prescott NF is currently involved in many collaborative efforts and large scale land management improvements. As described in Appendix B of the revised plan, there are many who have suggested that they would like to assist with aspects of national forest management. The revised plan provides support for increasing opportunities for volunteers and partners to be more active as part of national forest management. As stated in Chapter 1 of the revised plan:

The Prescott NF's mission is to effectively and efficiently manage National Forest System lands and resources to meet the needs and desires of the public, while enhancing the environment. We foster a collaborative environment internally and externally that values dialogue, community engagement, partnerships, and public education to achieve our stewardship responsibilities within and beyond the Prescott NF's boundaries.

As objectives in the revised plan are implemented, there will be opportunities to make project level, large scale, landscape improvements.

Concern CCCO-04: The Forest Service should partner with various local private and/or public groups to focus on watershed management and restoration. (15.05; 28.01; 48.03).

Response: As noted in appendix B, the revised plan provides support for the Prescott NF to implement the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) process to identify and prioritize landscapes for watershed restoration efforts. It involves collaboration between stakeholders, resource specialists, scientists, and the public to identify important aspects of the landscapes and determine restoration priorities.

Concern CCCO-05: The Forest Service should work closely with partners to accomplish objectives related to wildlife described in the Forest Plan. (84.01; 84.02; 84.03; 84.04; 84.04; 102.35; 111.11).

Response: The Prescott NF mission, as noted in Chapter 1 of the revised plan, is to:

... effectively and efficiently manage National Forest System lands and resources to meet the needs and desires of the public, while enhancing the environment. We foster a collaborative environment internally and externally that values dialogue, community engagement, partnerships, and public education to achieve our stewardship responsibilities within and beyond the Prescott NF's boundaries.

The revised plan provides support for the collaborative environment in which the Forest Service has been and will continue to work. This collaborative environment facilitates the working relationships that the Prescott NF has established with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Transportation among others. As identified in the mission statement, partnerships are valuable to the attainment of the Prescott NF land steward responsibilities.

Concern CCCO-06: The Forest Service should continue consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and engage in consultation with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers when appropriate (30.06).

Response: Appendix B of the revised plan outlines the probable activities and management approaches the Forest Service will likely use to implement the revised plan. The section titled, “Cooperation with Tribal Groups and Agencies” identifies the State Historic Preservation Officer and American Indian tribes as points of contact for coordination. In addition, the forest will continue to consult with tribes and the SHPO under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for all undertakings that have the potential to affect historic properties..

Concern CCCO-07: Verde Valley Land Preservation (VVLP) will welcome opportunities to assist the Prescott NF in meeting Objective 29 (113.01).

Response: Objective 29 in the revised plan lays the broad framework for acquiring lands for open space values; however, specific activities the Prescott NF may engage in to meet this objective would be determined in the future at the project level. Opportunities for public or stakeholder involvement in such activities would be identified at that time.

Concern CCCO-08: The Forest Service should make the Prescott NF website more user friendly and informative, and offer an opportunity for the public to express their views. (5.18; 13.01; 111.12).

Response: The Prescott NF recognizes the importance of providing visitor information in a manner that is useful and informative. Objective 14 in the revised plan specifies the development of two to five additional methods for providing visitor information and education. Improving the Prescott NF Web site is specifically mentioned in the Background and Rationale section following this objective. It states:

In order to increase communication and gather feedback, the Prescott NF expects to increase and improve effectiveness of visitor contacts through multiple avenues. Possible methods could include, but are not limited to, increased interpretation opportunities, information kiosks, improved use of Web site opportunities or social media, and multiple languages.

While Objective 14 lays the broad framework for addressing methods of visitor information, specific activities the Prescott NF may engage in to meet this objective would be determined in the future at the project level. Opportunities for public involvement in such activities would be identified at that time.

Concern CCCO-09: The Forest Service should include individuals or groups, by request, in all future public outreach on the Prescott NF (103.04).

Response: The Prescott NF used numerous formats for public outreach in the development of the revised plan (See the Public Involvement and Collaborative Planning section in Chapter 1 of the EIS) and will continue to alert the public as the revised plan and EIS are finalized. The forest notifies individuals and organizations of public outreach efforts through a variety of methods. Information is also provided to those who request it regarding specific projects and types of projects. Information on plans and projects is available on the Prescott NF's Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/prescott/).

CCC & O - Bureau of Land Management

Concern CCCO-10: The Forest Service should consult with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concerning the Castle Creek Contiguous PWA (44.06; 44.07).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does not include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement. The management of a specific potential wilderness area is an example of a project level decision that would not be included in the revised plan.

However, as stated in Appendix B of the revised plan, the Forest Service intends to develop a recreation strategy for the Prescott NF using a collaborative approach that would include participation by, among others, key State and Federal agencies. This would present an opportunity to consult with the Bureau of Land Management concerning the Castle Creek Contiguous PWA in the context of a landscape scale “all hands, all lands” approach to recreation management.

Concern CCCO-11: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is interested in connecting non-motor/non-mechanized trails on the south end of Castle Creek Wilderness (44.05).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does not include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement. Establishing connections between trails on BLM and Forest Service land is another example of a project level decision that would not be included in the revised plan, but could be addressed in a landscape scale “all hands, all lands” recreation strategy.

Concern CCCO-12: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is amenable making a level 2 road connection possible from 1-17 through the BLM Table Mesa Recreation Area to Forest Road 711. (44.04).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does not include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement. The proposed road connection is an example of a project level decision that would not be included in the revised plan, but could be addressed in a landscape scale “all hands, all lands” recreation strategy.

CCC & O - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Concern CCCO-13: The Forest Service should continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding bald eagle conservation and the management of native aquatic species. (81.02; 81.07; 81.08; 81.15; 81.19).

Response: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the agency that oversees direct management of animals and fish across the Nation, including administration of the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. As stated in Appendix B of the revised plan, the

Prescott NF will cooperate with (USFWS) in order to carry out management activities.

This includes cooperating with the USFWS regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for Conservation of the Bald Eagle in Arizona and continuing to work with the USFWS to restore habitat for native aquatic species.

Concern CCCO-14: The Forest Service should continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify and meet recovery objectives for Mexican spotted owl on the Prescott NF (81.05; 81.06; 81.17; 81.20; 85.38).

Response: The revised plan includes direction (Guide-Wildlife-1) to apply habitat management objectives and terrestrial species protection measures from approved recovery plans to activities occurring within federally listed species habitat, including the Mexican spotted owl. Additionally, under the Management Approaches section of Appendix B of the revised plan, the Forest Service identifies the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one of its primary cooperators for implementing management activities affecting animals and fish.

Concern CCCO-15: The Forest Service should consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that plan revision “is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of [critical] habitat of such species.” (106.46).

Response: The Forest Service compiled a Biological Assessment (BA) that describes the short and long term effects to federally listed species and their habitats from the proposed actions and direction contained within the revised plan. This BA is the basis for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding federally listed species under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. The information compiled for the BA was used to update the EIS between draft and final, including updates on listing status, threats to species and habitat, and effects determinations.

Economics

Concern ECON-01: The Forest Service should revise and clarify the economic analysis for recreation, grazing and wildlife (102.04; 102.20; 102.21; 102.22; 102.26; 102.27; 102.28; 102.29; 104.01; 114.12).

Response: The 1982 Planning Rule Provisions provide direction for conducting forest plan revision efforts and outline the requirements for economic analysis to include:

Direct and indirect benefits and costs, analyzed in sufficient detail to estimate --

- i. *the expected real-dollar costs ...*
- ii. *the expected real-dollar value ...*
- iii. *the economic effects of alternatives ...*
and
- iv. *the monetary opportunity costs (changes in present net value) ...*

[from Section 219.12(g)(3)].

The results of the analysis were summarized in the Socioeconomic Resources section in chapter 3 of the EIS. Between draft and final versions of the revised plan, the Prescott NF Leadership developed a new alternative (Alternative E) which necessitated a revision of the social and economic impact analysis for all program areas, including recreation, grazing and wildlife. The full revised analysis, including methodology and economic models, can be found in the “Socio-Economic Resource Report” (Forest Service, 2011g) available on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement).

Concern ECON-02: The Forest Service should consider the economic contribution to the local communities from mountain biking (8.03; 79.03; 103.03; 107.05).

Response: When developing the final revised plan (selected), the Prescott NF Leadership Team considered a number of factors, including the growing prominence and popularity of mountain biking in the Quad-Cities and the Verde Valley and the economic benefits that mountain biking brings to these communities. The economic contribution from mountain biking is included with other types of recreation in the socioeconomic analysis portion of the Social and Economic Values section of the EIS.

Concern ECON-03: The Forest Service should add “Bumble Bee” and “Cleator” communities with Crown King as benefitting local economies (44.03).

Response: Based on comments, the Forest Service reviewed the desired conditions for the Crown King Management Area and chose not to make any changes between the draft and final versions of the revised plan. The third bullet in DC-CK MA-1 is specific to summer recreation use around Crown King and is not meant to encompass Cleator or the Bumble Bee area.

Editorial

Concern EDIT-01: The Forest Service should consider adding “ROS,” “SIO,” and other acronyms to the glossary (58.01; 85.83).

Response: The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO) are defined in the Concept Descriptions to Improve Reader Understanding in the Revised Plan section of Chapter 1. In addition, the revised plan added a Commonly Used Acronyms list after the Table of Contents that includes both of these acronyms.

Concern EDIT-02: The revised plan contains a number of inaccuracies in the chapter 5 Geographic Area Historic Context sections (85.84; 85.85).

Response: The Geographic Area Historic Context sections in chapter 5 are intended to provide additional information on the history of these areas, they do not provide management guidance.

The suggested changes were submitted without context or citations, therefore, they were not incorporated into the final version of the revised plan.

Fire Management

Concern FIRE-01: The greatest threat in the Prescott NF is uncontrolled fire (46.01).

Response: Five priority needs for change topics were recommended to focus the scope of the revised plan. One of the five needs for change topics is to “Restore vegetation structure and composition and desired characteristics of fire to selected ecosystems, while responding to citizen concerns related to smoke emissions.” Rationale for inclusion as a need for change, as noted in Chapter 1 of the revised plan, is as follows:

The restoration of desired vegetative characteristics addresses the following: (1) risk of severe wildland fire that could damage soils, cause uncharacteristic changes in vegetation communities, and impact human health and safety, especially within the wildland-urban interface (WUI); (2) changes in ecosystems that could affect diversity of plant and animal species, such as spread of invasive plant species or changes in vegetation structure; and (3) identification of desired characteristics of fire as a disturbance, including frequency, severity, intensity, size, and seasonality, for ecosystems that are sustained by fire. Mitigation of smoke that flows into communities primarily due to prescribed fires is a connected social concern.

Concern FIRE-02: The Forest Service should review and clarify the Wildland Fire Standards and Guidelines (75.08; 75.09; 106.57).

Response: Based on comments and Forest Service review, changes were made to the Wildland Fire Standards and Guidelines. A new Wildland Fire Standard (Std-Wildland Fire-3) was added to address concerns for protecting cultural and heritage sites during wildland fire activities. This new standard replaced a guideline (Guide -Wildland Fire-7) concerning the placement of slash piles in sensitive areas. Wildland Fire Guidelines 3 and 4 were re-written to better describe the area of protection in the Strategic Fire Management Response map. There were no other changes to the Wildland Fire Standards and Guidelines.

Concern FIRE-03: The Forest Service should use prescribed burns to reduce fuels and improve forest health (31.03; 83.02; 91.12).

Response: Throughout the EIS prescribed fire and fires managed for resource benefits are identified as a means to attain desired conditions for reduced fuels and improved forest health identified in the revised plan (Table 1 shows a succinct comparison of acres proposed for burning by alternative).

Concern FIRE-04: The Forest Service should pursue a strategic approach to wildland fire management to maximize safety and efficiency (106.58; 106.59).

Response: The Prescott NF intends to pursue a strategic approach to wildland fire management to maximize safety and efficiency. In Chapter 4 of the revised plan, the following Standard (Std-Wildland Fire-1) is identified:

During response to wildland fire, risks to firefighters and the public shall be mitigated. Protection of human life overrides all other priorities.

Guidelines regarding efficiencies pertaining to wildfire and prescribed fire management are included in Chapter 4 of the revised plan as well.

Concern FIRE-05: The Forest Service should clarify the proposal to burn 25,000 to 65,000 acres over 10 years (102.36).

Response: As stated in the Environmental Consequences for Grassland PNVTs section in Chapter 3 of the EIS:

Alternatives B, D, and E also propose 25,000 to 65,000 acres of wildland fire treatments (prescribed fire and wildfire managed for resource benefits) over 10 years in the Semi-Desert Grasslands. As a result, the Semi-Desert Grasslands would achieve a range of open canopy conditions under these alternatives, depending on the extent of the treatments. At the high end of the proposed treatment levels, open canopy conditions would be close to desired proportions.

The amount of proposed prescribed burning in the Semi-Desert Grassland Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVT) is needed to attain desired conditions for that vegetation type.

The range of acres that are proposed for burning would allow for operational flexibility based upon fluctuating budget levels. The current forest plan monitoring report (available on the Prescott NF Web site at: www.fs.usda.gov/prescott/) shows that this range of numbers is realistic. From 1987 until 2012 (over the past 26 years) a total of 252,186 acres of land on the Prescott NF were burned or had other vegetation treatments implemented upon them.

Concern FIRE-06: The Forest Service should clarify fire management within desert communities (75.06; 104.08).

Response: Fire will not be used as a management tool within desert communities. It is stated in Std-Wildland Fire 2 in the revised plan that

Within the PNVt called Desert Communities (see map 1 in appendix A), fire shall not be used as a tool for management and all fires will be suppressed.

Concern FIRE-07: The Forest Service should consider and address the health impacts associated with prescribed burning and identify alternatives to burning (3.02; 4.01; 62.01; 62.03; 62.04; 62.05; 62.06; 62.07; 62.08; 63.01; 63.02; 63.03; 63.04; 63.05; 71.01; 71.02; 76.01; 101.01; 101.02).

Response: Within Chapter 3 of the EIS, the Need for Change 1 section summarizes current terrestrial ecosystem conditions of the Prescott NF and the consequences of implementing the proposed revised plan and its alternatives. The Smoke and Air Quality section discloses the effects of restoring vegetation structure, composition, and desired fire frequency using wildland fire and mechanical treatments, and the management implications for maintaining air quality, including health hazards from smoke.

The revised plan addresses public concerns about health hazards from smoke in several places. Chapter 2 includes desired condition statements (DC-Airshed-1) that smoke impacts to communities from prescribed fire are minimized through adherence to State regulations for smoke emissions; and that citizens are aware of the timing, emission sources, and smoke dispersion patterns of prescribed fire, along with information on the role and benefits of fire as a

landscape process. Chapter 2 also identifies that for the Prescott NF, air quality resulting from fire is monitored by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Air Quality Division for potential human health impacts using data recorders located in local communities (e.g., Prescott, Prescott Valley, Cottonwood, and Camp Verde).

As an alternative to burning, the revised plan includes direction in chapter 4 that mechanical or manual treatment of hazardous fuels should be considered where the use of wildland fire (i.e., wildfire and prescribed fire) may cause unacceptable resource damage or pose an unacceptable risk to life and private property (Guide-Wildland Fire- 5).

Lastly, the monitoring strategy in chapter 6 identifies air quality monitoring elements and includes a monitoring question that specifically asks, "Are management activities contributing or responding to air quality effects on human health or human enjoyment?"

Concern FIRE-08: The Forest Service should remove the strategic fire management response map (Map B) from the revised plan (75.07; 80.02).

Response: Based on comments and Forest Service review, Prescott NF leadership decided to keep the map addressing the forest's strategic fire management response but alter it to reduce the size of the "protection zone" to only National Forest System lands immediately surrounding the city of Prescott. This map corresponds to two guidelines in the revised plan,

Within the protection zone boundary on map 6 (see appendix A), a management objective of protection should be used to manage wildfires to minimize the risk of loss or damage to human life (Guide-Wildland Fire-3).

and,

Outside of the protection zone boundary on map 6 (see appendix A), responses to wildfire should consider including other objectives beyond a single objective of suppression or protection" (Guide-Wildland Fire-4).

The map's protection zone was reduced to better reflect the area where "protection" would be the only objective in wildfire management and to allow greater flexibility of wildfire management in other areas.

Forest Products

Concern FOPR-01: The Forest Service should explain the criteria used to determine timber suitability (106.13; 106.14).

Response: As part of the forest plan revision process, determination of timber suitability is required. This process is described in the 1982 Rule Procedures for Determining Timber Suitability 219.14 (a) & (c) and is documented in Chapter 7 of the revised plan and in Appendix B of the EIS.

Generally speaking, timber suitability is determined by considering all National Forest System Lands and going through a number of steps to remove areas that do not meet criteria for being suitable. Some of the conditions that would cause areas to be removed from the suitable timber base are: lands that are not forested; lands that are designated as wilderness areas (and would therefore not be harvested); and lands that cannot be restocked with trees. All criteria and a table

summarizing the suitability determination for the revised plan and EIS are described in Appendix B of the EIS.

Concern FOPR-02: The Forest Service should harvest timber to benefit forest health (43.02).

Response: Throughout the EIS timber harvest is identified in the ponderosa pine Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVTs) as a means to attain desired conditions identified in the revised plan (Table 1 shows a succinct comparison of harvest levels by alternative). Timber harvest would be done at sustainable levels as identified in the Long Term Sustain Yield Capacity determination which is documented in Appendix B of the EIS.

Concern FOPR-03: The Forest Service should consider and disclose the potential environmental consequences and climate change implications resulting from any anticipated continued commercial harvest of timber (106.43).

Response: The environmental consequences and climate change implications are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the EIS. Below is an excerpt from the Ecosystem Responses to Changing Climate section.

The sustainability of several terrestrial ecosystems on the Prescott NF is at risk (especially for the grasslands and ponderosa pine PNVTs), and restoring their health and function is key to strengthening their resilience and adaptation capacity. Hotter and drier environments are expected to increase the occurrence of wildfire as well as increase their size and severity. Increasing the amount of vegetation and fire characteristics that are adapted to a more fire prone environment would enhance ecosystem resilience landscape-wide. Restoration treatments that create more open conditions would enhance individual plant resilience to natural and human stressors, encourage persistence of native vegetation, and facilitate ecosystem transition from current to new climate conditions.

Commercial timber harvest that is instigated to attain uneven aged forest conditions that are desired conditions within the forest plan would help to create resilient ecosystems under changing climatic conditions. Additionally, trees that are retained during the implementation of uneven aged forest management would continually contribute to carbon stocks in the form of live and growing trees. Uneven aged forest conditions are expected to be maintained over time under implementation of the revised plan. Trees are planted on the Prescott NF after large scale wildfires. Cone and seed collection also occurs on the Forest in anticipation of the need to plant trees in the future. Tree planting also contributes to carbon stocks on the Prescott NF.

Concern FOPR-04: The Forest Service should not harvest trees larger than 16-inch diameter at breast height (dbh) (85.34; 85.35; 106.54; 106.55).

Response: As part of the plan revision process, desired conditions for all potential natural vegetation types (PNVTs) were designed to provide detail and guidance for the design of future projects and over time. Desired conditions describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function. They are the focus of the plan and are the basis for developing objectives and other plan components. A future project or activity must be consistent with or help trend toward desired conditions.

The desired conditions for Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak (DC-Veg-13) and Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak (DC-Veg-17) PNVTs state, in part, that the forests have :

... a mosaic of structural stages ranging from young to old trees. Forest structure is variable but generally uneven aged and open in appearance.

In order to attain the desired condition to have uneven aged forest structures, some trees larger than 16 inches in diameter at breast height need to be harvested. Studies (Abella et al., 2006; Triepke, 2011) have shown that conserving trees greater than 16 inches in diameter creates the inability to develop or maintain uneven-aged forest structures. Retention of all trees greater than 16 inches in diameter obstructs establishment of ponderosa pine regeneration which would perpetuate even aged forest structures in these PNVTs.

Concern FOPR-05: The Forest Service should allow citizens free access to the dead trees in the forest without them having to obtain a permit (76.02).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature and does include project level decisions. As described in the desired conditions statements for several vegetation types (DC-Veg-6, -7, -9, -13, -17, and -23), there are specified amounts of standing dead (snags) and down dead (coarse woody debris) trees that are desirable. The amount of coarse woody debris that can be removed from an area is an example of a site-specific decision that would not be included in the revised plan.

The fuelwood permit system allows the Forest Service to regulate areas where dead trees are collected to assure that these desired conditions can be met. Additionally, Forest Service policy states that the agency shall recover the fair market value of products other than commercial timber when it is practicable to do so (Forest Service Manual 2467.03 Chapter 2460).

Grazing

Concern GRAZ-01: The Forest Service should modify the Range Standards and Guidelines to emphasize improving range conditions; restrict livestock from riparian areas, seeps, and springs; and add a guideline for incorporating grass reserve banks (46.07; 85.33; 109.08; 114.19).

Response: Forest Service direction for range management already requires maintaining or improving range conditions and it does not need to be restated in the revised plan. Livestock grazing is restricted from riparian areas, seeps, and springs when their presence is causing resource damage. Desired conditions have been developed for vegetation, soil, and watersheds, and are expressed in the revised plan (chapter 2). Range allotment management plans are developed for all active grazing allotments and provide for meeting or moving towards the achievement of desired conditions expressed in the plan. It is a standard in the plan that year-long grazing in riparian areas shall be avoided (Std-Range-2). It is a guideline in the plan to limit use on woody riparian vegetation by livestock so as to maintain those species and allow for regeneration and the maintenance of multiple age classes (Guide-Range-5). Desired conditions for riparian gallery forests are provided in the plan and livestock grazing management will provide for meeting or moving towards desired conditions. Grass reserve banks are areas kept ungrazed for the most part that can serve as a temporary forage refuge when livestock need to be moved off of the normal range that they occupy. Some vacant or non-use allotments that occur on the Prescott NF have served in that capacity, but that use is not decided at the forest plan level.

Concern GRAZ-02: The Forest Service should explain the criteria used to determine grazing suitability (85.32; 102.05; 102.08; 102.11; 102.12; 102.16; 102.44; 104.15; 106.08; 106.09).

Response: As part of the plan revision process, a determination of suitability for livestock grazing on the Prescott NF was conducted. The determination, its related definitions, criteria, analysis steps and references are summarized in appendix B of the EIS.

Appendix B explains that the first step was to identify the areas of the Prescott NF that met the definition of capability. Capability is the potential of an area of land to produce resources and supply goods and services. Three measures were used to determine capability: (1) forage productivity, (2) inherently unstable soils, and (3) slopes steeper than 60 percent. Information for these measures was obtained from the Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey of the Prescott NF (circa. 2000) and U.S. Geological Survey data using corporate geographic information system (GIS) tools. Lands capable of producing forage for grazing animals (1,009,821 acres) was derived by subtracting from the total Prescott NF land base (1,267,515 acres) any and all acres characterized by slopes greater than 60 percent (15,400 acres), soils that are inherently unstable (114,786 acres), or where forage productivity is less than 100 pounds per acre-year (127,508 acres).

The second step was to make a determination of livestock grazing suitability. Suitability determinations are based on compatibility with desired conditions and objectives in the plan area. The Responsible Official does not identify lands within the plan area as suitable for a certain use if that use is prohibited by law, regulation or policy; would result in substantial and permanent impairment of the productivity of the land or renewable resources; or, if the use is incompatible with the desired conditions for the relevant portion of the plan area.

The area capable of producing forage for grazing animals was the starting point for determining current range suitability. This area was 1,009,821 acres.

The 1987 plan identified Management Area 7 as unsuitable for livestock grazing; it consisted of three recreation areas. In addition, the Prescott Municipal watershed (Goldwater Lake) was excluded from grazing based on a 1924 agreement. Lane Mountain watershed was also excluded, beginning in 1975. These areas totaled 39,688 acres. Desired conditions in the revised Forest Plan for these areas include management for their original purpose; thus, they continue to be unsuitable for livestock grazing.

The planning team then identified additional areas which were excluded from livestock grazing, including those excluded by NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decisions and portions of allotments that were excluded from grazing activity after 1987. Since inception of the 1987 plan, more than 50 allotments on the Prescott NF have received site-specific environmental review and several areas were excluded from grazing in project-level decisions. Large, contiguous areas (at least 1,000 acres each) that were excluded in site-specific decisions were deemed to be not suitable for livestock grazing for this suitability analysis. These areas totaled 57,055 acres.

Suitable grazing lands were determined to be 913,078 acres. This value was calculated by taking the capable acres (1,009,821) and subtracting the unsuitable areas identified in the 1987 plan (39,688) and the sum acres of the recent grazing exclusions (57,055).

The identification of lands suitable for livestock grazing within the revised plan is not a decision to authorize livestock grazing. The final decision to authorize livestock grazing would be made at

a project (individual grazing allotment) level. On a site-specific basis, grazing allotments are guided by an adaptive management strategy whereby results from long and short term monitoring are used to determine yearly stocking rates, pasture rotations, and whether other adjustments are needed in order to meet management objectives and desired conditions for rangelands.

Concern GRAZ-03: The Forest Service should provide an analysis of the synergistic effects of livestock grazing and climate change (102.18; 106.10; 106.11; 106.25; 106.44).

Response: Potential impacts to ecosystems from livestock grazing and changing climate trends were considered during development of the revised plan. These impacts are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the EIS in the Ecosystem Responses to Changing Climate section and the Social and Economic Values – Livestock Grazing section.

As a result of this analysis, several standards and guidelines were developed to lessen the potential negative impacts that could result from a combination of inappropriate livestock grazing and expected changes in climate. Specifically, the revised plan includes two standards (Std-Range-1 & 2) and six guidelines (Guide-Range-1 – 6) for livestock grazing that allow management flexibility to adapt to changing conditions, including drought and/or a changing climate. On a site-specific basis, grazing allotments are guided by an adaptive management strategy whereby results from long and short term monitoring are used to determine yearly stocking rates, pasture rotations, and whether other adjustments are needed in order to meet management objectives and desired conditions for rangelands.

Concern GRAZ-04: The Forest Service should provide ecosystem specific - scientific proof that herbivory by nonnative species is not detrimental to the ecosystems and native wildlife species on the Forest (102.07; 102.14; 102.32; 102.34; 102.39; 102.45; 104.07).

Response: Potential impacts of herbivory by nonnative species (i.e., livestock grazing) to ecosystems and native wildlife species were considered during development of the revised plan. These impacts are disclosed in the Social and Economic Values – Livestock Grazing section in Chapter 3 of the EIS.

As a result of this analysis, several standards and guidelines were developed to lessen the potential negative impacts on other Forest resources that could result from inappropriate livestock grazing. Specifically, the revised plan includes two standards (Std-Range-1 & 2) and six guidelines (Guide-Range-1 – 6) for livestock grazing activities across the Forest. This guidance allows management flexibility to adapt to changing conditions, including vegetation responses to herbivory, drought and wildfire. The revised plan also includes two watershed guidelines (Guide-WS-4 & 9) to protect riparian areas and vegetation from inappropriate livestock grazing practices. Additionally, there are three wildlife protection guidelines (Guide-WL-2, 3, & 9) that direct the use of design features, mitigation measures, and project timing considerations for rangeland improvements.

Concern GRAZ-05: The revised plan does not propose to rehabilitate or restore all suitable grazing lands that exhibit less than satisfactory conditions (106.12).

Response: The focus of the revised plan is the desired conditions that describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function – including those areas deemed suitable for grazing. Desired conditions are the basis for developing objectives and other plan components, and future projects or activities must be consistent with or help trend toward these desired conditions.

Desired conditions for grazing include DC-Watershed-1:

Watersheds support sustainable levels of forage for browsing and grazing animals, timber production, and recreation opportunities with no long term decline in watershed conditions.

and DC-Veg-3:

Vegetation on lands deemed suitable for livestock grazing provides sustainable amounts of forage for authorized livestock and wildlife species, consistent with multiple-use objectives.

Herbivory aids in sustaining or improving native vegetation cover and composition.

Plan level direction that will assist in the rehabilitation and restoration of suitable grazing lands include projects to improve or maintain watershed conditions, (Objective 18), projects to counter critical threats to riparian system functionality (Objective 19), and maintenance and enhancement of seeps and springs (Objective 23). These are in addition to plan direction to restore vegetation structure and composition (Objectives 1 through 5).

Although the revised plan is strategic in nature and does not include project level decisions, it does provide guidance for the development of range allotment management plans. These plans are developed for all active grazing allotments and provide for meeting or moving towards the achievement of desired conditions expressed in the plan. On a site-specific basis, grazing allotments are guided by an adaptive management strategy whereby results from long and short term monitoring are used to determine yearly stocking rates, pasture rotations, and whether other adjustments are needed in order to meet management objectives and desired conditions for rangelands.

Concern GRAZ-06: The Forest Service should clarify in the EIS that native species (deer and antelope) are browsers not grazers (102.03).

Response: The Forest Service updated the revised plan and EIS to reflect that the native animal species on the Prescott National Forest are browsers not grazers.

Concern GRAZ-07: The Forest Service should cease the removal of juniper for the purpose of forage production (85.25; 85.75).

Response: Based on comments, the Forest Service reviewed the desired conditions for Piñon-Juniper Woodlands but did not make any changes. Desired conditions for all vegetation types described in the revised plan were created to assist with the restoration and maintenance of healthy ecosystems while providing for the sustainable use of those ecosystems.

Objective 3 in the revised plan identifies treating 20,000 to 90,000 acres in Juniper Grasslands, Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub, and Piñon-Juniper Woodlands Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVTs) using mechanical treatments, wildland fire, or browsing by domestic livestock. Such activities would certainly remove juniper, but the purpose is to improve watershed and rangeland conditions, vegetation structure, and wildlife habitat. The proposed treatments have the following rationale, as noted in the Background and Rationale section of Objective 3:

Within the Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub PNVT, increasing density of juniper trees and shrubs leads to increased competition for water, especially if climate predictions

of warmer and drier conditions take place. By removing some trees or shrubs, the remaining vegetation would have less competition for water and better survival. In some locations, depending on site conditions, herbaceous ground cover may expand.

and

Within the juniper grasslands, the exclusion of fire has allowed encroachment of juniper trees. Reintroducing fire as a disturbance will increase the vigor of grasses and will kill some trees and bushes. Mechanical tree removal will decrease density of juniper trees in locations where fire is not desired or will not carry. The result will be healthier grasslands and enhanced pronghorn habitat including the creation of a more open environment, a trend toward fewer trees and shrubs, and maintenance of the desired open environment within relevant Arizona Game and Fish Department linkages.

Concern GRAZ-08: The Forest Service should ban all grazing on public lands, and/or allow permittees to voluntarily retire their grazing allotments permanently (3.08; 4.02; 44.08; 85.28; 102.49; 109.04; 109.05).

Response: To ban all livestock grazing on public lands is outside the scope of the forest plan revision process in part because such a decision would violate the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act (1964). Allowing permittees to permanently retire their allotments is also outside the scope of the forest plan revision process and would violate Forest Service regulations (36 CFR 222.2(c)), which states that forage producing National Forest System lands will be managed for livestock grazing.

Concern GRAZ-09: The Forest Service should restrict livestock grazing near rivers and streams and within riparian areas (45.01; 91.10; 102.06; 102.17).

Response: Livestock grazing allotments on the Prescott NF use an adaptive management approach to match livestock numbers with forage production. Allotment management plans are evaluated through a site-specific NEPA process that includes the identification and analysis of specific proposals and the opportunity for public involvement.

The revised plan contains guidance in the form of range standards and guidelines (Std-Range-1 and 2, Guide-Range-1 through 6). These standards and guidelines allow livestock grazing in riparian areas with certain restrictions aimed at minimizing adverse effects on water quality, riparian habitat, and watershed function. Examples include Range Standard 2, which restricts the timing of grazing in riparian areas, and Guideline Range 1 which directs the placement of salt licks at least ¼ mile away from riparian areas. More specific restrictions would be analyzed and implemented through the grazing allotment management plan.

Concern GRAZ-10: The Forest Service should implement controlled grazing within riparian areas (37.03; 59.06; 59.07; 72.03; 72.05; 90.01).

Response: Livestock grazing allotments on the Prescott NF use an adaptive management approach to match livestock numbers with forage production. Allotment management plans are evaluated through a site-specific NEPA process that includes the identification and analysis of specific proposals and the opportunity for public involvement.

The revised plan contains guidance in the form of range standards and guidelines (Std-Range-1 and 2, Guide-Range-1 through 6). These standards and guidelines allow livestock grazing in riparian areas with certain restrictions aimed at minimizing adverse effects on water quality, riparian habitat, and watershed function. Controlled grazing within a specific riparian area would be analyzed and implemented through the grazing allotment management plan.

Concern GRAZ-11: The Forest Service should continue to support ranching on the Prescott NF (37.04; 37.05; 38.03; 40.06; 46.08; 72.06; 96.02).

Response: The Prescott NF vision statement (found in Chapter 1 of the revised plan) states:

Our vision is to manage the cultural and natural resources of the Prescott NF to provide healthy watersheds, outdoor recreation opportunities, open space, scenery, and traditional uses that sustain the social and economic structure and stability of our communities.

Ranching has been and continues to be a traditional rural lifestyle in Yavapai County. The revised plan also includes a desired condition statement (DC-Vegetation-3) acknowledging that:

Livestock grazing contributes to aspects of the social, economic, and cultural structure and stability of rural communities.

This desired condition statement is an affirmation that the Forest Service supports ranching on the Prescott NF.

Concern GRAZ-12: The Forest Service should revise their restrictions on the use of mechanized equipment in grazing allotments located in wilderness (96.05).

Response: It is not within the authority of the USDA Forest Service or the within the purview of this decision to update, modify, or amend the Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577) or the congressional guidelines and policies regarding grazing in National Forest Wilderness Areas.

Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act states:

...the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Forest Service follows the Congressional Grazing Guidelines (Forest Service Manual 2323.22) which allow for the reasonable use of motorized and mechanized equipment to manage the range resource. This includes improvements such as tanks and fences. Reasonable use is determined through site-specific analysis of the impacts of using mechanized and motorized equipment in wilderness to manage range resources. Once determined, approval from the Regional Forester is required before allowing such use.

Inventoried Roadless Areas

Concern IRA-01: The Forest Service should consider adding Inventoried Roadless Areas to the Special Areas map in the appendix of the revised plan (35.23).

Response: The Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) on the Prescott NF are displayed on a new, separate map (Map 7) in the revised plan.

Lands, Open Space, and Scenic Values

Concern LAND-01: Open space and scenic values are beneficial to all communities, including Prescott and the Verde Valley (5.23; 35.03; 35.05; 35.08).

Response: Based on comments, Prescott NF leadership decided to remove language in Objective 29 that specified the Verde Valley as the primary location for acquiring lands to retain open space values. The objective was broadened to be more inclusive and now states:

Act on up to 10 opportunities, as presented and feasible, to acquire lands within and around the Prescott NF and to retain open space values during the 10 years following plan approval.

This change was made to better recognize the importance of open space to all communities surrounding the Prescott NF.

Concern LAND-02: The Forest Service should review and clarify the Lands Standards and Guidelines to include scenic values and to include lands identified as desirable for acquisition from the plans of city, county, and regional governments (35.18).

Response: Land exchange criteria are established in law or Forest Service policy and are referenced in Guide-Lands-2 and Guide-Lands-3 of the revised plan. The Forest Service considers a variety of resource values in determining the desirability of lands for acquisition. Those values are often different from what local or regional governments might identify as desirable as their purposes for acquisition are generally quite different.

Concern LAND-03: The Forest Service should review and clarify the Scenic Values Standards and Guidelines (58.05).

Response: Based on comments, the Forest Service reviewed the Scenic Values Standards and Guidelines but did not make any changes. It was determined that the link to the glossary definition for concern levels did not need to be included as it was already present in the Wildland Fire Standards and Guidelines.

Concern LAND-04: The Forest Service should add “wildlife linkage, wildlife movement, and migratory corridor” verbiage to the desired conditions for Open Space, Lands, and Scenic Values (114.11; 114.15).

Response: No changes were made to the desired conditions for Open Space, Lands, and Scenic Values between the draft and final versions of the revised plan. DC-Open Space-1 addresses the retention of open space values related to wildlife habitat, and DC-Wildlife-1 states, in part, that wildlife in habitats associated with animal movement corridors are free from human harassment.

Concern LAND-05: The Forest Service should consider and identify corridors and other areas of connectivity between the forest and its surrounding communities and jurisdictions, and incorporate wildlife linkages into open spaces (1.03; 28.02; 114.13).

Response: The desired conditions for recreation state in DC-Rec-2 Trails that“(t)rail routes include both point-to-point trails that connect communities and interconnected loops of varying lengths”. DC-Wildlife-1 states, in part, that:

Wildlife in habitats associated with animal movement corridors are free from human harassment.

The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature and does not identify specific travel corridors, areas of connectivity, or wildlife linkages. However, as noted above, the revised plan does contain guidance to consider and identify both wildlife and human movement corridors as part of any future proposed project or activity.

Concern LAND-06: The Forest Service should revise the wording on DC-VV-MA-1 to say, “The land exchange process is open to the public, and there are opportunities for the public to provide input on land exchanges being considered” (35.21).

Response: The existing wording for DC-VV MA-1 states:

The land exchange process is open to the public, and there are opportunities to provide feedback regarding the land exchange.

It was determined that the proposed wording was not substantially different and that the existing wording is more concise. Therefore, no changes were made to this desired condition between the draft and final versions of the revised plan.

Concern LAND-07: The Forest Service should add the east face of Mingus Mountain and the land along the Verde River to the land acquisition and exchange opportunities that are listed in Guide-VV-MA-3. (35.22).

Response: Between the draft and final versions of the revised plan, Guide-VV-MA-3 was revised for specificity. The revised wording states:

Land acquisition and exchange opportunities should emphasize retaining or adding to Prescott NF lands in the Verde Valley and on the east side of the Black Hills between Cottonwood and Camp Verde.

Concern LAND-08: The Forest Service should add “the East face of Mingus Mountain” or “scenic view sheds” to the verbiage in Objective 29 (35.16).

Response: The Prescott NF Leadership Team revised Objective 29 in the final revised plan (selected) to remove language that emphasized the acquisition of riparian habitat, areas along the upper and middle Verde, and in the Verde Valley. Objective 29, as re-written, states:

Act on up to 10 opportunities, as presented and feasible, to acquire lands within and around the Prescott NF to retain open space values during the 10 years following plan approval.

The new language provides broader direction for land acquisitions in support of meeting desired conditions.

Law Enforcement

Concern LE-01: The Draft Plan does not specifically address the critical issue of enforcement of existing regulations within the Prescott NF (85.15).

Response: Laws and regulations, and the enforcement of them, are not forest plan level decisions. Enforcement is not a forest plan component but is a requirement of the Agency, regardless of the land management plan in effect.

Concern LE-02: The Forest Service should change the current trail “yield policy” to a regulation enforceable by law enforcement (5.40).

Response: Changing the current trail “yield policy” would require promulgating regulations. Promulgating regulations that affect public activities or prohibitions on National Forest System lands are codified at Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and are therefore considered actions outside the scope of the decisions to be made in revising the forest plan. This is because regulations found at 36 CFR are not forest plan components. Additionally, enforcement of Federal regulations is a requirement of the Agency, regardless of the land management plan in effect.

Management Areas

Concern MA-01: The Forest Service has effectively addressed some of the key issues in the Verde Valley (35.04; 35.06).

Response: The revised plan contains direction for the Verde Valley Management Area in Chapter 5. The desired conditions and management guidelines for the Verde Valley MA are based on community vision statements developed during the plan revision process. Key issues identified in this process and addressed in the revised plan include the protection and enhancement of open space, the retention of scenic views, and continued access to public land for recreation use.

Concern MA-02: The Forest Service should review and clarify the Management Area Standards and Guidelines (5.27; 85.81; 109.09).

Response: Based on comments and Forest Service review, changes were made to the Standards and Guidelines for Management Areas in Chapter 5. Individual guidelines (Guide-CK MA-2, Guide-UV MA-4, Guide-WVN MA-3, and Guide-VV MA-4) that provide direction for managing recommended wilderness areas were replaced by a similar forest-wide guideline (Guide-Wild-10). The first Prescott Basin MA guideline (Guide-PB MA-1) was re-written for clarity, and the third Verde Valley MA Guideline (Guide-VV MA-3) was modified to provide specificity.

Concern MA-03: The Forest Service should include strong direction, including additional objectives, for the Upper Verde Management Area (85.07; 85.09; 85.31; 93.16).

Response: The revised plan contains strong direction for the Upper Verde Management Area in Chapter 5, including four desired condition statements and three guidelines. The desired conditions are specific to the Upper Verde MA and reflect recreation concerns from the community vision statements; the guidelines provide guidance for project and activity decisionmaking.

Forest-wide guidelines that provide direction for the Upper Verde MA include Wild and Scenic River Standard #2 which applies to approximately 38 miles of the upper Verde River, and Guide-Wild-10 which applies to the Sycamore Canyon A and Woodchute recommended Potential Wilderness Areas.

Additionally, the Prescott NF Leadership Team added a new objective to the revised plan between the draft and final versions. Objective 31, states:

Apply for at least 8 in-stream flow water rights to enable the Prescott NF to provide for channel and floodplain maintenance and recharge of riparian aquifers during the 10 years following plan approval.

This new language provides strong direction and support for the in-stream flow rights application has been submitted on the upper Verde River.

Concern MA-04: The Forest Service should revise the definition of the “Upper Verde River Management Area” (85.08).

Response: As noted in the introduction to Chapter 5, geographic areas are based on human geography and were mapped according to where people from various communities felt strongly about conditions and events. The area referenced is properly named the Upper Verde Management Area and is a sub-division of the Prescott/Chino/Drake Geographic Area. This Management Area has been mistakenly identified by the commenter as the “Upper Verde River Management Area”; the Upper Verde Management Area boundaries were not based on the watershed boundaries for the upper Verde River.

Concern MA-05: The Forest Service could improve the historical context for the Verde Valley in the Management Area direction section (35.19).

Response: The historical context for the Verde Valley is vast and complex. To provide additional information on the history of this area could make unduly long what is intended to be a concise document to guide the management of the forest.

Concern MA-06: The Forest Service should clarify or delete the verbiage, “(east portion)” that is listed in the plan by Grief Hill IRA where it describes the characteristics of the Verde Valley (35.20).

Response: The Grief Hill Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) spans two Geographic Areas delineated in the revised plan. The eastern side of the Grief Hill IRA lies in the Verde Valley Geographic Area; the western side lies in the Agua Fria/Crown King Geographic Area.

Minerals

Concern MIN-01: The Forest Service should modify the Minerals and Minerals Materials Standards and Guidelines to protect resources, require adequate bonds, and require restoration of one area prior to expanding operations into new areas (85.40; 85.41; 85.42; 85.43; 85.44; 85.45).

Response: These recommended additions to the minerals standards are current requirements already in place as existing law and policy. Therefore they are not repeated as forest plan direction.

Concern MIN-02: The Forest Service should include strong requirements for mining restoration bonds in the plan (4.08; 48.06).

Response: The revised plan includes a standard (Std-Locatable Minerals-3) which states:

Approval of mining activities shall include the use of reclamation bonds to protect and restore surface resources.

The individual requirements involved to meet the standard will be determined at the project level.

Concern MIN-03: The Forest Service should clarify the use of suction dredge equipment on the forest (85.14).

Response: The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not include project level decisions. The specific types of equipment used for mining is a project level decision, and therefore not a forest plan level decision. The use of section dredges is not prohibited on the forest in those areas open for mineral exploration and development.

Miscellaneous Comments

Misc - General

Concern MISC-01: The 2012 Planning Rule is flawed in multiple respects, possibly to the extent that the proposed revised plan is not valid or legal (59.01; 59.02).

Response: Revision of the existing land and resource management plan followed the provisions of the 1982 rule as provided for by the transition language in the 2012 rule. While consistent with many of the concepts of the 2012 planning rule, the development of the revised plan did not follow 2012 planning rule direction. The validity of the 2012 planning rule is an issue for the courts to decide, and therefore, is outside the scope of the Prescott NF plan revision process.

Concern MISC-02: The Forest Service should explain why the Travel Management Rule and the Forest Service Handbook are not integrated into the revised plan (102.02).

Response: As noted in Chapter 1, the revised plan provides broad guidance and information for project and activity decision-making that is consistent with the Forest Service Handbook and Forest Service Manual direction. The revised plan is also consistent with, but does not restate, existing law or policy such as the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.51). Management direction not included in the plan is found in numerous laws, regulations, executive orders, Forest Service policies, and additional guidance documents. Some of these other sources of direction are listed in chapter 8 of the revised plan.

Concern MISC-03: The Forest Service should advocate at every level of management for the protection of ecosystems and habitat (20.02).

Response: As noted in the Prescott NF Mission and Vision section in chapter 1 of the revised plan,

The nationwide mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The overall goal of managing National Forest System lands is to

sustain the multiple uses of its resources in perpetuity, while maintaining the long term productivity of the land.

This statement encompasses a strong commitment to the restoration and preservation of ecosystems within National Forest System lands. Many of the desired conditions and their supporting objectives in the revised plan were created to address the need for restoration efforts in a number of ecosystems and habitats where conditions have departed from a healthy functioning state. The desired conditions developed for the Prescott NF are consistent with desired conditions used throughout the Southwest Region, reflecting the nationwide commitment to ecosystem health, diversity, and productivity. In addition, desired conditions, objectives, and other plan components provide direction and guidance at the project level that emphasizes ecosystem and habitat restoration and preservation.

Concern MISC-04: The Forest Service should add “mining” and “church camps” to DC-Veg 3, as activities that also contribute to the cultural structure and stability of rural communities. (109.06).

Response: No changes were made to DC-Veg 3 between the draft and final versions of the revised plan. The vegetation desired conditions are not the appropriate location to mention the contributions of mining and church camps to rural communities. Although all three activities occur under permit on the forest, only livestock grazing is used as a tool to manage vegetation.

Concern MISC-05: The Forest Service should address the upcoming use of aerial vehicles such as drones and hovercrafts (111.02).

Response: The Forest Service has no way of predicting the potential future use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems on Forest System Lands and therefore is not able to address the potential impacts of this practice.

Misc - Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Concern MISC-06: The Environmental Impact Statement for the revised plan is the appropriate vehicle for a science-based, landscape-scale assessment of forest restoration needs (106.52).

Response: The “Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b) was compiled to identify recent changes in ecological conditions and trends and existing threats and associated risks to long term ecological sustainability. This information, combined with the “Prescott National Forest Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment” (Forest Service, 2009c) and input received through extensive collaboration with various public groups, organizations, agencies, officials, and individuals, was used to develop the five priority needs for change topics. These topics were used to focus the scope of the revised plan and are summarized in the “Analysis of the Management Situation” (Forest Service, 2009a). One of the five needs for change topics identified in chapter 1 of the revised plan addresses forest restoration:

Restore vegetation structure and composition and desired characteristics of fire to selected ecosystems, while responding to citizen concerns related to smoke emissions.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been the tool by which the effects of implementing the revised plan are measured. Science-based, landscape-scale effects of vegetation restoration were assessed in the EIS under the Need for Change 1 section in Chapter 3.

Concern MISC-07: The Forest Service should disclose in the Environmental Impact Statement the content of its national-scale Strategic Plan (106.37).

Response: As noted in Chapter 1, the revised plan provides broad guidance and information for project and activity decision-making on the Prescott NF. The revised plan is consistent with, but does not restate, existing law, regulation, or policy; this includes the national “USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan FY 2007-2012” (Forest Service, 2007). The content of the Strategic Plan was not included in the EIS because analysis of agency policy is outside of the scope of this decision.

Concern MISC-08: The EIS needs a significantly improved Affected Environment section that discloses important ecological, economic, and historic information about the Prescott National Forest. As required by 40 C.F.R. § 1502.15, the EIS must describe the environment of the area(s) to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration (104.14, 106.28).

Response: Consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1502.15, the Affected Environment section of the EIS describes the environment of the area(s) to be affected by the alternatives under consideration with *descriptions no longer than necessary to understand the effects of the alternatives*. Additional context for the Prescott NF’s ecological, economic, and social resources can be found in the “Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b), “Prescott National Forest Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment” (Forest Service, 2009c), and the “Analysis of the Management Situation” (Forest Service, 2009a). The needs for change topics and the social and economic values found in chapter 1 of the EIS helped to narrow the scope of the plan revision efforts and to focus effort and attention on important issues within the decision framework.

Concern MISC-09: The Forest Service must analyze and disclose the impacts of eliminating or changing any “management requirements” identified at § 219.27 of the 1982 Planning Rule as a result of revising the forest plan. (106.41).

Response: Provisions of the 1982 Planning Rule at § 217.27 established minimum requirements to be met in accomplishing goals and objectives for the National Forest System. During forest plan development, the management practices and corresponding forest plan components needed to meet the management requirements were identified as Minimum Management Requirements (MMRs). A plan component was considered an MMR if it established a minimum outcome or condition and was expected to be included in one or more action alternatives (alternatives other than existing condition) in the EIS.

The “Documentation of Minimum Management Requirements” report (Forest Service, 2011) was completed for the action alternatives in June 2011 and informed the effects analysis for the DEIS and is available on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement). The report identified for each subpart of § 217.27: the applicable plan components and the rationale for inclusion as an MMR. Additionally, each of the action alternatives was evaluated as meeting or exceeding the MMR for each subpart. As required by § 217.27, each of the action alternatives included sufficient plan components to meet the management requirements.

In revising the 1987 plan, some plan components were carried forward into the revised plan while others were modified or eliminated and new ones were created. This activity of eliminating or

changing plan components should not be confused with eliminating or changing the “management requirements”.

Concern MISC-10: The Forest Service should significantly revise the draft plan and release a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public comment (104.18).

Response: The Prescott NF followed the requirements outlined in the National Environmental Policy Act, National Forest Management Act, and 1982 planning rule regulations to develop the draft forest plan and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and make them available for review during a 90-day public comment period. Public comments submitted were analyzed by the Forest Service and adjustments were made to the draft forest plan based on this input, culminating in the creation of an additional alternative (alternative E). Prescott NF leadership selected alternative E in moving towards the final forest plan.

Concern MISC-11: The Forest Service should provide a summary of how both the 1987 plan and the revised plan will move forward to reach the goals presented (102.01).

Response: A descriptive summary of plan objectives and how they differ between the alternatives, including alternative A (1987 plan) and alternative E (selected revised plan), can be found in the Alternatives Considered in Detail section in chapter 2 of the EIS. A more concise presentation is the Forest Plan Alternatives Comparison Chart available on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement).

Concern MISC-12: The Forest Service should provide copies of the Forest Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement to those who request them (30.07).

Response: The agency will provide copies to all who request them and in the format requested. The revised plan and EIS will also be available on the Prescott NF Web site under Land and Resources Management (www.fs.usda.gov/prescott/).

Misc - Standards and Guidelines

Concern MISC-13: The Forest Service should strengthen the Standards and Guidelines to contain specific restrictions and to be mandatory rather than discretionary (104.04; 104.05; 104.06; 104.09; 104.10; 104.11; 106.04; 106.07; 106.23; 106.42).

Response: Standards and guidelines in the revised plan provide the necessary guidance to help the forest achieve objectives and move toward desired conditions without being overly prescriptive. The standards and guidelines in the revised plan are not discretionary (see the Decisions Made in the Plan section in Chapter 1), and are as binding as were the standards and guidelines in the old plan. Standards are defined as direction that the forest must follow unless it approves a plan amendment, which would require analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with public involvement as required by that law and by Forest Service regulation. Guidelines also must be followed but may be modified without a plan amendment if the action is consistent with the intent of the guideline. Projects that conflict with guidelines must provide a sound rationale for the deviation and undergo a NEPA analysis that would require public involvement.

Concern MISC-14: The Forest Service should revise the plan to establish Standards and Guidelines that will assure that the agency meets minimum management requirements (104.03).

Response: The revised plan complies with the requirements of the 1982 planning rule provisions, including the minimum management requirements. The revised plan addresses each of the elements in section 219.27 in the “Documentation of Minimum Management Requirements” (Forest Service, 2011a) available on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement).

Concern MISC-15: The revised plan will repeal virtually all standards and guidelines in the existing 1987 plan (106.01).

Response: The revised plan updates the standards and guidelines to better respond to current environmental conditions and managed activities on the Prescott NF. As noted in chapter 1 of the revised plan

Some components of the 1987 plan, including some of its amendments, are still adequate and timely and have been carried forward into the revised plan.

However,

... some standards and guidelines in the 1987 plan (were not) included in the revised plan because they were unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish a project, did not support attaining desired conditions or accomplishing objectives, or were duplicative.

Chapter 4 further states that

Standards and guidelines (in the revised plan) provide sideboards and guidance for project and activity decision-making to help achieve desired conditions and objectives. Standards must be followed and can only change with a plan amendment. Guidelines must be followed, but they may be modified somewhat for a specific project if the intent of the guideline is followed and the deviation is addressed in a decision document with supporting rationale.

Updates to the existing plan do not amount to a repeal of all standards and guidelines, nor does it roll back environmental safeguards affecting the management of forest resources.

Concern MISC-16: The revised plan replaces existing standards and guidelines with desired conditions and objectives that are not enforceable in project-level decisions (106.02; 106.05; 106.49).

Response: The revised plan includes all four of these types of plan components, desired conditions (or goals), objectives, standards, and guidelines, each of which plays a separate role.

As noted in the Introduction to chapter 2 of the revised plan, projects and activities must be consistent with, or help trend toward, desired conditions. Desired conditions describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function, and objectives are measurable, time-specific actions implemented to achieve desired conditions. The standards and guidelines provide project-level guidance for the implementation of these actions.

Since all projects must be consistent with all of these plan components, it would be more accurate to say that desired conditions and objectives complement, rather than replace, standards and guidelines in project-level decisions.

Concern MISC-17: The wildlife guidelines include direction from existing science publications. They should be modified to say that management will adhere to the most current policy and best available science as it changes (75.05).

The wildlife guidelines included in the revised plan were developed specifically to address or mitigate risk to species viability because their associated habitat conditions are departed from reference conditions and/or because of species' vulnerability to impacts from forest management or activities. These guidelines limit management actions and uses within the planning area and were based on best available science. A plan amendment adjusting these guidelines may be necessary as new information or policy becomes evident.

Monitoring

Concern MON-01: The Forest Service should include the following criteria in its monitoring strategy: (1) monitoring and evaluation at a level sufficient to inform adaptive management; (2) streamlined protocols that simplify and improve efficiency without compromising defensibility; (3) results obtained through monitoring should be made available to the public (15.04; 85.46; 106.53; 109.01).

Response: Chapter 6 of the revised plan discusses how the monitoring strategy is based upon an adaptive management cycle that takes adjustment of management actions based upon monitoring and evaluation into account. The first guiding principle of the monitoring strategy described in Chapter 6 describes that forest plan monitoring efforts are to be efficient, practical and affordable. Based upon the monitoring questions that are described within the table in Chapter 6, plan monitoring would be defensible and sufficient in terms of assessing movement toward plan desired conditions. Monitoring reports will be compiled and published at least every two years, and made available for public review on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement).

Concern MON-02: The Forest Service should reveal the extent to which monitoring in the current plan has been completed (104.12).

Response: Monitoring of the current forest plan is compiled on an annual basis and is available for review on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement). The "Analysis of the Management Situation" (AMS) (Forest Service, 2009a) for this revised plan incorporated monitoring that was completed during implementation of the current forest plan. The AMS is part of the plan revision process and can also be found on the Prescott NF Web site.

Concern MON-03: The Forest Service should reevaluate the frequency of monitoring for resilience to climate change (48.02).

Response: Ecosystem resilience in response to changing environmental conditions is to be monitored every two years as described in Chapter 6 of the revised plan. Guiding principles are key elements of the Prescott NF's monitoring strategy and serve as a framework for implementing

an effective monitoring and evaluation program. One of these guiding principles described in Chapter 6 is that

Monitoring efforts are efficient, practical and affordable; take into consideration the best available science; and do not duplicate the collection of data already underway for other purposes.

The monitoring frequency of every two years for measuring resilience to climate change is adequate as changes in environmental conditions are typically slow and more frequent monitoring may not yield additional data that is of value. As such, annual monitoring of this component would not meet the principle of being efficient.

Concern MON-04: The Forest Service should monitor air quality for particulates and noxious substances (62.02).

Response: The monitoring strategy for the revised plan includes assessing progress towards achieving the desired conditions for Airsheds and Air Quality (DC-Airshed-1). The monitoring questions include "Are management activities contributing or responding to air quality effects on human health or human enjoyment?" and "Are air quality related values (e.g., visibility) of the Sycamore Canyon and Pine Mountain Wilderness areas being maintained?" The performance measures include monitoring particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) recorded at smoke sensitive sites; and visibility using the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) program.

Concern MON-05: The Forest Service should monitor the Prescott NF rivers and streams for contaminants and rates of flow (45.02; 48.04; 85.80; 91.09).

Response: The monitoring strategy (chapter 6) for the revised plan is designed to assess whether the application of standards and guidelines is achieving objectives, and whether objectives are achieving or moving toward desired conditions. The standards and guidelines related to watersheds include references to both contaminants (Std-WS-1) and streamflow (Guide-WS-1); the performance measure in Theme 1 associated with these standards and guidelines is the changes in watershed condition class for 6th level hydrologic units.

In addition, monitoring for aquatic species assesses progress towards achieving DC-Aquatic-1, which addresses the quantity and timing of water flows and water quality needed to retain or enhance aquatic habitats. The monitoring question asks "Are management actions maintaining or making progress toward desired habitat conditions for native fish, amphibian, and reptile species?" and the performance measures include aquatic habitat quality.

Concern MON-06: The Forest Service should include the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in the list of species monitored in chapter 6, table 5, of the forest plan (114.20).

Response: The species identified for plan monitoring (chapter 6, table 5) are limited to the federally listed species, Forest Service regionally sensitive species, and the selected management indicator species that occur within the planning area. All 26 species to be monitored for plan effectiveness are species included on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's list of SGCN. The monitoring strategy for the revised plan is designed to collect information specific to assessing how well the direction in the plan is being implemented; such as whether the application of

standards and guidelines is achieving objectives, and how well management actions (objectives) are achieving or progressing toward desired conditions. The strategy is not intended to monitor a statewide list of species.

Publications

Concern PUB-01: The Forest Service should consider the following publications showing the negative impacts of improper use of livestock: Belsky, A.J., and D.M. Blumenthal. 1997. Effects of Livestock Grazing on Stand Dynamics and Soils in Upland Forests of the Interior West. *Conservation Biology* 11:315-327. Donahue, Debra. 1999. *The Western Range Revisited: Removing Livestock from Public Lands to Conserve Native Biodiversity*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press. 338 pages. Ferguson, Denzel, and Nancy Ferguson. 1983. *Sacred Cows at the Public Trough*. Bend, Oregon: Maverick Publications. Finch, D.M., M.J. Ganey, W. Yong, R.T. Kimball, and R. Sallabanks. 1997. Effects and Interactions of Fire, Logging and Grazing. Pp. 103-136 in Block, W.M., and D.M. Finch. *Songbird Ecology in Southwestern Ponderosa Pine Forests: A Literature Review*. General Technical Report RM-292. Fort Collins, CO: USDA, Forest Service. Fleischner, Thomas L. 1994. Ecological Costs of Grazing in Western North America. *Conservation Biology* 8(3):629-644. Fleischner, T.L., D.E. Brown, A.Y. Cooperrider, W.B. Kessler, and E.L. Painter. 1994b. *Society for Conservation Biology Newsletter* 1(4):2-3. Beshta, Robert L. Donahue, Debra L., DellaSala, Dominick A., Rhodes, Jonathan J., Karr, James R., O'Brien, Mary H., Fleischner, Thomas, Williams, Cindy D. *Adapting to Climate Change in Western Public Lands: Addressing the Ecological Effects of Domestic, Wild and Feral Ungulates*. *Journal of Environmental Management*. Zwartjes, P., Cartron, J., Stoleson, P., Haussamen, W. Crane, T. *Assessment of Native Species and Ungulate Grazing in the Southwest: Terrestrial Wildlife*. US Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, General Technical Report; RMRS – GTR – 142, September 2005. (102.13).

Response: Scientific information on the potential negative impacts of improper livestock grazing such as those disclosed in the publications listed were considered during development of plan components as well as for estimating the environmental consequences of the alternatives at the programmatic level.

Outcomes of these considerations included the development of an entire chapter in the revised plan devoted to desired conditions that describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function – including those potentially impacted by livestock. Desired conditions have been developed for ecosystem resilience, vegetation, soil, and watershed conditions, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, as well as socially important uses including sustainable recreation, open space, forest products and livestock grazing. Desired conditions form the basis for all projects, activities, and uses that will occur during the life of the revised plan. These projects will be designed to maintain or move towards the desired conditions over the long term.

Several standards and guidelines were also developed specifically to lessen the negative impacts of livestock grazing on other Forest resources that are expected to occur during the life of the plan. There are two standards (Std-Range-1 & 2) and six guidelines (Guide-Range-1 – 6) to regulate livestock grazing activities across the Forest. This guidance allows management flexibility to adapt to changing conditions, including vegetation responses to herbivory, drought and wildfire. The revised plan also includes two watershed guidelines (Guide-WS-4 & 9) that protect riparian areas and vegetation from livestock damage. Additionally, there are three wildlife

protection guidelines (Guide-WL-2, 3, & 9) that direct the use of design features, mitigation measures, and project timing considerations for rangeland improvements..

Concern PUB-02: The Forest Service should consider information from “Suggested Reductions in Cattle Grazing Capacity for Different Percentages of Slope” in evaluating capacity for livestock (102.09; 102.10).

Response: Methods for determining livestock capacity are set by Forest Service policy and included as part of individual allotment management plan development. Therefore, evaluating capacity for livestock is not a forest plan-level decision. Slope is one of the factors considered during the development of allotment management plans.

Concern PUB-03: The Forest Service should consider the implications of the publication “Wood Plenty, Grass Good, Water None. Vegetation Changes in Arizona’s Upper Verde River Watershed from 1850-1997” regarding the impacts of woody species and trees on vegetation and water quantity, particularly in respect to its assessment of the historic abundance of juniper (85.18).

Response: The publication cited provides an interesting literature review of the historic condition and density of juniper woodlands as described by visitors and settlers in the 1800s. The agency is aware that the juniper in some areas was historically quite dense. The historic density of juniper is just one element that the Forest Service considered in developing desired conditions and objectives for juniper woodlands. The desired conditions, developed in collaboration with the public, also included watershed condition and function, wildlife habitat needs, and human uses.

Concern PUB-04: The Forest Service should consider the implications of the ADEQ report regarding water quality in the Verde River and the Sierra Club report “The State of the Verde River” in its evaluation of Verde River water quality (85.56).

Response: The Forest Service has considered these documents and included the ADEQ report in its analysis. Implementing the revised plan would result in an improvement in water quality for the Verde River as projects are undertaken to improve the conditions and function of the watersheds associated with the Verde River. One of the desired conditions for watersheds in the revised plan is that water quality is sustained at a level that retains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the aquatic systems (DC-Watershed-1).

Concern PUB-05: The Forest Service should consider the implications of the publication “Adapting to Climate Change on Western Public Lands: Addressing the Ecological Effects of Domestic, Wild, and Feral Ungulates” regarding combined impacts of grazing by ungulates and climate change that are relevant to the proposed Forest Plan and the associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (85.30).

Response: The potential impacts of grazing by ungulates and climate change disclosed in the publication cited along with other climate and ecosystem science were considered during development of the revised plan and for estimating the environmental consequences of the revised plan and its alternatives in the EIS.

These considerations resulted in the development of numerous plan components that direct management actions to minimize ungulate impacts to plant and animal communities, soils, and water resources. Specifically, chapter 2 of the revised plan describes the desired conditions for

how the vegetation, soil, watersheds, and wildlife habitats should look and function. Chapter 3 identifies measurable, time-specific management actions (objectives) to achieve these desired conditions. Chapter 4 provides project-level guidance for implementation of these actions including eight standards and guidelines to constrain livestock grazing activities across the Forest. Chapter 6 includes direction for monitoring the management actions, measures, and decisions that the Forest Service is taking to enhance ecosystem resilience or adaptations in response to changing environmental conditions.

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the revised plan and its alternatives related to livestock grazing and climate change were analyzed and disclosed in Chapter 3 of the EIS in the Ecosystem Responses to Changing Climate section and the Social and Economic Values – Livestock Grazing section.

Concern PUB-06: The Arizona Game and Fish Department strategic plans referenced in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are obsolete (114.07; 114.08).

Response: This has been noted and the references have been updated, where appropriate, between the draft and final versions of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Recreation

Rec - General

Concern REC-01: Recreation use on the Prescott NF will increase as Arizona's population increases (89.03).

Response: We agree that there is potential for higher demand for recreation resources due to population growth in the area. This issue is discussed in further detail in the Recreation Trends on the Prescott NF section of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Concern REC-02: The Forest Service should provide more recreational opportunities for a wide variety of users (11.04; 88.01).

Response: In the revised plan, the desired condition for recreation (DC-Rec-1) starts out by stating:

Recreation on the Prescott NF provides opportunities for current and future demographics, as well as those of all abilities, to discover and enjoy the landscape.

To assist in achieving this desired condition, the Prescott NF has included objectives in the revised plan to increase developed recreation opportunities (Objective 7), expand dispersed camping opportunities (Objective 8), construct and improve trailheads (Objective 11), enhance fishing opportunities (Objective 13), improve trails (Objective 17), and restore public access to national forest lands (Objective 30).

Concern REC-03: The Forest Service should not commit to constructing 2 to 5 new developed recreation areas (58.03; 92.02).

Response: The revised plan adopted the development range for Objective 7 from alternative D, one to two new developed recreation areas during the 10 years following plan approval. The

Prescott NF Leadership Team selected this more modest level of development in response to concerns over the future availability of recreation funding and the desire to shift the recreation focus on the Prescott NF toward dispersed opportunities.

Concern REC-04: Unmanaged recreation poses a threat to forest resources (91.16).

Response: Desired conditions describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function. They provide the basis for developing the objectives, standards, and guidelines identified in the revised plan that will guide recreation management on the forest. The desired conditions for recreation (DC-Rec-1) state that recreation facilities will

... concentrate use at key locations so that visitors enjoy the cultural and biophysical resources while protecting those resources

and that

Designated dispersed recreation occurs in areas that can accommodate concentrations of use, thereby lessening impacts to natural and cultural resources of other areas

To assist in achieving these desired conditions, the Prescott NF has included recreation objectives in the revised plan to increase developed recreation opportunities (Objective 7), expand dispersed camping opportunities (Objective 8), address needed maintenance at developed recreation sites (Objective 9), construct and improve trailheads (Objective 11), and improve trails (Objective 17).

Concern REC-05: The Forest Service should clarify how it plans to close current recreation areas and direct users to the new locations (111.14).

Response: Determinations on the methods for closure of any recreation areas and/or methods to direct users to new locations is not a plan level decision. Such methods will be determined at the project level on a case-by-case basis at a future date.

Concern REC-06: The Forest Service should develop local visitor surveys or web-based interactive tools to identify recreation experiences, determine user satisfaction, and track user conflicts (5.28; 5.29; 5.30; 5.39; 60.12; 88.07; 94.03; 94.04).

Response: The Prescott NF Leadership Team has recognized that better communication with visitors and potential visitors is needed in order to achieve the desired conditions stated in the revised plan. Objective 14 directs managers to develop new methods for providing visitor information and education. One of the methods suggested in the Background and Rationale, the improved use of web site opportunities or social media, addresses the suggestion to use web-based interactive tools to identify recreation experiences, determine user satisfaction, and track user conflicts.

Concern REC-07: The Forest Service should review and clarify the Recreation Standards and Guidelines (5.24; 5.25; 58.04; 75.10; 93.13).

Response: Based on comments and Forest Service review, changes were made to the Recreation Standards and Guidelines. Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Standards and Guidelines were separated from Recreation and placed in a new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers section. Recreation Guideline 11 was re-written for clarity to read:

Within developed campgrounds, vegetation removal should promote visitor safety, scenic values, and vegetation health.

There were no other changes to the Recreation or Interpretation Standards and Guidelines.

Concern REC-08: The Forest Service should create a Travel Management Plan for bicycles and require them to obey traffic laws (5.04; 5.10).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does not include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement. A travel management-type plan for bicycles is an example of a project level decision that would not be included in the revised plan.

Concern REC-09: The Forest Service should include equestrian use in the Recreation Suitability Matrix (116.02).

Response: In response to comments, equestrian use was added to the revised plan as a Nonmotorized Dispersed Recreation activity to the Recreation Suitability Matrix in Chapter 7.

Concern REC-10: The Forest Service should include disc golf as a potential future recreation activity on the Prescott NF (89.02).

Response: The Forest Service did not add disc golf as a potential future recreation activity on the Prescott NF. The revised plan is strategic in nature and consideration of specific recreation activities is best addressed at the project level.

Concern REC-11: The Forest Service should mention the recreation use occurring along the Prescott NF/BLM boundary west of Bumble Bee / Cleator in the description of this area (44.02).

Response: No changes were made to the description of the Crown King Management Area between the draft and final versions of the revised plan. The area description focuses on the major recreation points and is not meant to provide a comprehensive list of opportunities in the area.

Concern REC-12: The Forest Service should add “human waste” as one of the problems from visitor use in bullet 1 of the Background and Rationale section on Objective 16 (85.50).

Response: The Forest Service did not add “human waste” as one of the problems from visitor use in bullet 1 of the Background and Rationale section on Objective 16. The language chosen was intended to provide a couple of examples, not an exhaustive list, of problems that may be amplified by visitor use.

Concern REC-13: The Forest Service should be careful about how much credibility they give to user conflict experiences, as those accounts may not be true or completely accurate (36.10).

Response: User conflict is subjective; in other words, it exists if someone believes that it exists. The revised plan identifies in the third need for change (chapter 1) that as the population and numbers of visitors to the Prescott NF increases, the potential for conflict and between visitors needs to be addressed. Conflict is addressed in the desired conditions (DC-Rec-1, DC-Rec-2

Trails, and the Management Area DCs), objectives (Background and Rationale for Objectives 10, 11, and 17), and standards and guidelines (Guide-Rec-10).

Concern REC-14: It should be more directly stated in the desired conditions that “the Prescott NF will provide varied recreational opportunities as appropriate to protection of resources and safety of users”, and that “the change in demographics should not be the driving force to consider types of activities” (5.06; 5.07).

Response: The issue of providing recreation opportunities that are appropriate to the protection of resources and the safety of visitors has already been addressed in the desired conditions for recreation (DC-Rec-1). It states that recreation facilities will “concentrate use at key locations so that visitors enjoy the cultural and biophysical resources while protecting those resources” and that “designated dispersed recreation occurs in areas that can accommodate concentrations of use, thereby lessening impacts to natural and cultural resources of other areas.” It also states that “developed recreation sites are safe, clean, and sanitary,” “vegetation within developed recreation areas is diverse, healthy, and free from hazards to public safety”, and “visitors are aware of, and comply with, forest regulations”.

Nowhere in the recreation desired conditions does it state that demographics are the driving force to consider types of activities. However, it does state that “recreation on the Prescott NF provides opportunities for current and future demographics”, and that “the number, location, and types of recreation facilities respond to changes in demand”.

Rec - Camping

Concern REC-15: The Forest Service should develop new campgrounds and designated dispersed camping areas of sufficient size to accommodate both vehicular and foot traffic (111.05; 111.06).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does not include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement. The size and design of any new camping area is an example of a project level decision that would not be included in the revised plan.

Concern REC-16: The Forest Service should increase the amount of dispersed camping on the forest (83.04).

Response: As noted in the revised plan under the Background and Rationale for Objective 8, in the absence of specific restrictions, a person can camp in any location on the Prescott NF outside of a developed recreation site. Objective 8 also directs the creation of up to 4 new designated dispersed camping areas, following the model established within the Prescott Basin.

Concern REC-17: The Forest Service should rephrase the Background and Rationale of the dispersed camping sites to state, “In absence of specific restrictions, a person can camp in any location on the forest outside of a developed recreation site, and within 300 feet of all roads designated as open on current Motor Vehicle Use Maps.” (114.16).

Response: The language suggested would be incorrect, as it would limit nonmotorized dispersed camping and back-country camping. Only motorized dispersed camping and dispersed car

camping are restricted to within 300 feet of roads designated as open on the current Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Rec - Motorized Use

Concern REC-18: The Forest Service should review and clarify the Motorized Big Game Retrieval (MBGR) Standards and Guidelines (4.07; 84.05; 93.09; 114.04; 114.05; 114.06).

Response: In response to comments, the Forest Service reviewed the Motorized Big Game Retrieval Standards and Guidelines. The Prescott NF Leadership determined that the MBGR policy was appropriate for the Prescott NF and complementary to MBGR policies in adjacent National Forests. Therefore, no changes were made between the draft and final versions of the revised plan.

Concern REC-19: The Forest Service should consider and address the social, economic, and resource impacts of motorized use on the forest (3.04; 9.01; 9.02; 36.09; 43.01; 43.03; 59.09; 59.10; 78.01; 78.03; 91.15; 108.03).

Response: Forest plan components were developed after reviewing the direction provided in the 2005 Travel Management Rule and the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to ensure that the revised plan was consistent and not contrary to existing policy and regulations regarding motorized use on the forest.

The revised plan contains direction stating:

Only designated roads, motorized trails, and motorized use areas as depicted and described on the motor vehicle use map are open to public motorized vehicle use (Std-Rec-1)

However, it does not include project level or site-specific decisions pertaining to road closures or area restrictions. It also provides for the use of motor vehicles for big game retrieval, with the stipulations outlined in Std-Rec-2 and Guide-Rec-1.

The impacts and consequences of this management direction have been analyzed and are discussed in the EIS. The Dispersed Recreation section in Chapter 3 addresses the social and environmental aspects of motorized use. The economic contributions from motorized use are included with other types of recreation for the socioeconomic analysis in the Social and Economic Values section.

Rec - Target Shooting

Concern REC-20: The Forest Service should create more than one designated target shooting area to replace the current range (66.01; 66.02; 114.17).

Response: The revised plan does not contain any direction to construct a replacement venue for recreational shooting; however, it does note in the Background and Rationale for Objective 10 that the Prescott NF would be open to entering into a partnership for a new facility. Objective 10 was updated by the Prescott NF Leadership Team in the selected alternative to the revised plan to emphasize a shift towards raising awareness of responsible target shooting practices on the Prescott NF and to move away from the responsibility associated with being the sole owner and operator of a shooting range.

Concern REC-21: The Forest Service should evaluate the financial, environmental, and public safety issues associated with target shooting on the forest and consider prohibiting target shooting or restricting it to designated shooting ranges (2.01; 2.02; 2.03; 4.03; 5.13; 5.15; 5.16; 5.32; 5.34; 5.37; 5.38; 11.10; 58.02; 111.08).

Response: Based on public comments and internal deliberation, the Prescott NF Leadership decided that the revised plan will not commit the Prescott NF to any new designated target shooting areas. Instead, Objective 10 was modified to shift the focus to raising awareness of responsible target shooting practices on the Prescott NF.

The impacts and consequences of implementing this modified objective were analyzed in the Improvements to Recreation Sites portion of the Need for Change 3 section of the EIS. The economic contributions from recreational target shooting are included with other types of recreation for the socioeconomic analysis in the Social and Economic Values section.

Area closures, such as a prohibition on target shooting, are developed on a site-specific basis subject to appropriate NEPA analysis. The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed, and there is opportunity for public involvement.

Rec - Trails

Concern REC-22: The Forest Service should evaluate the trail system on the Prescott NF, taking into account trail design, user group needs, maintenance needs, and trail safety. Multiple use trails should be encouraged where possible, but trails that are unable to accommodate the proper conditions for multiuse trails should be designated for single use. Once trail designations are made, the Forest Service should work with the various user groups to develop safety guidelines for trail use on the Prescott NF (1.05; 5.02; 5.03; 5.05; 5.08; 5.09; 5.11; 5.12; 5.17; 5.19; 5.20; 5.21; 5.22; 5.42; 11.06; 11.07; 11.08; 13.02; 13.03; 31.04; 34.01; 34.02; 34.03; 36.04; 36.05; 60.07; 70.03; 70.04; 70.05; 79.04; 79.05; 79.06; 83.03; 91.14; 94.06; 94.07; 94.09; 110.01; 110.02; 110.03; 110.04; 111.07; 111.09; 111.15; 115.01; 116.01; 116.03; 116.04; 116.05).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature and does not include project level decisions. An evaluation of the trail system on the Prescott NF is therefore outside the scope of the decision being made.

The revised plan does include language in the Background and Rationale section of Objective 17 that notes that

... the completion of a comprehensive trail plan could increase recreation opportunities for all users by prioritizing improvements to existing trails or adding new trails to the system.

However, a comprehensive trail plan would be a separate process that would include the identification and analysis of specific proposals and the opportunity for public involvement.

Concern REC-23: The Forest Service should add the use of mountain bikes to the DC-Rec-2 Trails section of this plan, and/or a clarification that mountain bikes are considered nonmotorized recreation (94.05).

Response: The revised plan recognizes mountain biking as a Nonmotorized Dispersed Recreation activity in the Recreation Suitability section of Chapter 7. This is a more appropriate plan component for the suggestion than the desired conditions, as the language chosen for DC-Rec-2 Trails was intended to provide an example, not an exhaustive list, of recreation use on trails and trailheads.

Concern REC-24: The Forest Service should consider the following language for DC-Rec-2 Trails to be consistent with that found in the Hassayampa Field Office's Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP. "Easements or rights-of- way across key private and State administered lands will be acquired to ensure long term network viability and public access. Easements or rights-of-way actions will be undertaken when: route system effectiveness is or would be adversely affected by outside actions; opportunity becomes available and the action is consistent with recreation settings and goals; recreation and resource disciplines need public and/or administrative access to sites; portal access is desired to support resource objectives of safety and sustainability." (44.01).

Response: The language suggested for consideration was deemed more appropriate for an objective than a desired condition and was used to inform the development of Objective 30 for the final revised plan, which states:

Identify and act on up to 10 opportunities to secure legal access to areas where historic access to the national forest has been lost during the 10 years following plan approval

No changes were made to DC-Rec-2 Trails.

Concern REC-25: The Forest Service should increase the amount of trail signage (94.08; 111.10).

Response: The revised plan contains an objective (Objective 11) to improve facilities (including signage) at 5 to 20 trailheads. In addition, the revised plan also includes an objective (Objective 12) to increase the sign maintenance to 10 to 20 percent of signage annually.

Concern REC-26: The Forest Service should use mechanized equipment such as compact excavators to build trails (70.06).

Response: The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not include project level decisions. The specific types of tools used for trail construction is a project level decision, and therefore outside the scope of the decision being made.

Research Natural Areas

Concern RNA-01: The Forest Service should designate the upper Verde River as a Research Natural Area (85.11).

Response: Research natural areas (RNAs) are areas that are set aside to create a spectrum of high quality natural communities that are part of a national network for research, education, and

maintenance of biological diversity. The process to establish RNAs is documented in the Forest Service Manual 4063. During plan revision, national forests are to consider the need for, and identification of, RNAs. The potential research natural areas on the Prescott NF were evaluated in a 3-step process:

1. Review existing information
2. Determine the quality of ecologically underrepresented areas
3. Recommend areas as potential RNAs

The upper Verde River was identified as a potential RNA, but the Forest Supervisor chose not to develop interim management direction and recommend the area for RNA establishment. This is because segments of the upper Verde River are already classified as an eligible wild and scenic river, and the plan contains direction in the form of desired conditions and standards and guidelines that protect the outstandingly remarkable value of eligible river segments. It was determined that recommendation as an RNA would not provide additional meaningful protection for the upper Verde River.

The RNA evaluation process included review of eight types of under-represented terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems on the Prescott NF. Upper Grapevine Creek was identified as an underrepresented seeps and springs aquatic ecosystem. The Forest Supervisor chose not to forward the recommendation to the Regional Forester for approval because of interests in actively managing the area's natural resources in collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Additional information about the RNA evaluation process can be found in the "Prescott National Forest Research Natural Area Evaluation Process Summary Report" (Forest Service, 2010). The entire report is filed as part of the planning record and can be viewed on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site.

Vegetation Management

Concern VEG-01: Achieving long term vegetation restoration objectives is an acceptable and commendable use of resources (30.02; 30.03; 31.02).

Response: The Prescott NF concurs that achievement of vegetation restoration objectives is an acceptable use of resources. This is evidenced by the emphasis of the need for vegetation restoration found throughout both the revised plan and the Environmental Impact Statement EIS.

Concern VEG-02: The Forest Service should add another desired condition and supporting objectives for vegetation management that focuses on ecosystem health (85.26).

Response: Many of the desired conditions and their supporting objectives in the revised plan were created to address the need to restore vegetation structure and composition and desired characteristics of fire to selected ecosystems. This identified need for change and associated desired conditions illustrates a focus on ecosystem health by acknowledging that there is a deviation between current and desired conditions and a need to address those deviations.

Concern VEG-03: The Forest Service should make grassland habitat restoration a top priority by adding desired conditions, standards, and guidelines for all of the historic and present grassland habitats on the Prescott NF (102.38; 102.40; 102.43).

Response: Desired conditions for grasslands and all other Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVTs) described in Chapter 2 of the revised plan represent a restored condition. Managing for the attainment of desired conditions will facilitate grassland habitat restoration. Past and future management practices, climate change, as well as social and economic considerations all have played a role and will continue to play a role in the extent of grasslands or any other vegetation type. By managing for the potential natural vegetation as is the intent of the revised plan, grasslands will be managed for places where they occur and could occur in the future, rather than managing all areas that were historically considered to be grasslands in the past.

The purpose of the revised plan is to identify long term management direction of resources on the Prescott NF. A desired condition for all vegetation types on the Prescott NF is to have diverse vegetation structure, species composition, and densities, provide quality habitat for native and desirable nonnative plant and animal species throughout their life cycle and at multiple spatial scales. Achieving DCs in grasslands has been given emphasis as it is an objective of the revised plan as identified in Chapter 3. Prioritization of where work will be completed within the direction provided by the plan is dictated by a myriad of variables such as funding, staffing levels, tradeoffs among resources, and work that has been accomplished. Projects that are created and implemented under the guidance of the revised plan will have more specific directions such as how fences in pronghorn habitat will be constructed and the desired ratio of grasses, forbs and shrubs in a given area. This level of detail is not appropriate at a forest plan level.

Concern VEG-04: The Forest Service should clarify the rationale for the proposed juniper removal (85.19; 85.22; 85.23; 85.24).

Response: Rationale for Desired Conditions in juniper Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVTs) and the associated Objective pertaining to juniper removal treatments are based upon the need to restore and maintain vegetation structure and disturbance regimes. As noted in the Background for PNVTs section of Chapter 2 in the revised plan, the restoration of all PNVTs would serve to increase ecosystem resilience or adaptive capacity of plant communities to accommodate expected changes imposed by future climate trends for the Southwest.

The need to restore and maintain vegetation structure and disturbance regimes was established in the “Analysis of the Management Situation” (Forest Service, 2009a) which summarizes key findings from the “Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b), developed to identify current conditions and probable future trends. These documents, and all documents associated with the revision of the plan, can be viewed and downloaded from the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement).

Concern VEG-05: The Forest Service should clarify the causes of tree and shrub encroachment in the juniper Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVTs) (85.20; 85.21).

Response: The cause of tree and shrub encroachment in juniper grasslands is described in the Background and Rationale for Objective 3 (in Chapter 3) in the revised plan:

Within the juniper grasslands, the exclusion of fire has allowed encroachment of juniper trees.

Concern VEG-06: The Forest Service should re-evaluate the desired conditions for Piñon-Juniper Woodlands (75.01; 90.03).

Response: Based on comments, the Forest Service reviewed the desired conditions for Piñon-Juniper Woodlands but did not make any changes. Desired conditions for all vegetation types described in the revised plan are science based and were created to assist with the restoration and maintenance of healthy ecosystems while providing for the sustainable use of those ecosystems.

Concern VEG-07: The Forest Service should provide more information on how the characteristics of mixed conifer forests will be maintained (81.04).

Response: Based on comments and Forest Service review, the revised plan has been modified to include more information regarding how the characteristics of mixed conifer forest will be maintained. The following language was added to the desired conditions for the Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak Potential Natural Vegetation Type (PNVT) in Chapter 2 of the revised plan:

In areas with aspen, Douglas-fir, and white fir present, trees typically occur in irregularly shaped groups, trees within groups are variably spaced, and group sizes generally range from a few trees up to 1.1 acres. Crowns of trees within the mid-aged to old groups are interlocking or nearly interlocking.

and

In areas with aspen, Douglas-fir, and white fir present, tree densities range from 30 to 100 square feet of basal area per acre and interspaces surrounding tree groups range from 50 to 70 percent of the midscale area.

This updated language provides consistency with the desired conditions described for surrounding national forests. This direction is based on descriptions provided in the RMRS-GTR-310 (Forest Service, 2013).

Concern VEG-08: The Forest Service should ensure that any change to existing standards and guidelines must include analysis of impacts to old growth forest and associated species, as required by the 1982 planning regulations (106.38).

Response: There are no requirements in the 1982 planning rule for analyzing the impacts of changes to standards and guidelines specifically related to old growth. However, the impacts of the revised and new management direction were analyzed for each of the vegetation types (PNVTs) that occur on the forest. The effects of each alternative on the components of vegetation structure were analyzed in the EIS. The analysis in the EIS also covered project level direction in the revised plan including objectives, standards, and guidelines.

Within the revised plan, old growth is addressed as a component of vegetation structure described within the desired conditions for each PNVT (DC-Veg-6 to DC-Veg-23), which includes size and age classes, and specific habitat features (i.e., old trees, dead trees or snags, and downed wood or coarse woody debris). This approach was chosen as it is more comprehensive and flexible than treating old growth as a distinct vegetation type.

Between draft and final versions of the plan, a guideline (Guide-Veg-7) was added to ensure protection of old growth trees over time across all vegetation types. It states:

Projects in forested and woodland communities that change stand structure should generally retain at least historic frequencies of trees by species across broad age and diameter classes at the mid-scale. As such, the largest and oldest trees are usually retained.

and

Project design should also identify replacement features to assure continuous representation of old growth over time. Features that should be retained include: old trees, dead trees (snags), downed wood (coarse woody debris), and diverse stand structure.

As noted, guidelines must be followed but may be modified if the action is consistent with the intent of the guideline, there is a documented rationale for the deviation, and the specific action has undergone a NEPA analysis with public review.

Concern VEG-09: The Forest Service should analyze old growth forest conditions to develop old growth standards and guidelines for the revised plan (106.39; 106.40).

Response: The introduction to Chapter 4 of the revised plan explains that standards and guidelines do not include statements that recommend an analysis, inventory, or monitoring. However, desired conditions for old growth were developed for several PNVTs at the landscape scale in the revised plan and are located throughout Chapter 2. An example from one such desired condition (DC-Veg-6) reads as follows:

Old growth occurs throughout the landscape, generally in small areas as individual old growth components, or as clumps of old growth. Old growth components include old trees, snags, coarse woody debris (downed wood), and structural diversity. The location of old growth shifts on the landscape over time as a result of succession and disturbance (tree growth and mortality).

Concern VEG-10: The Forest Service should clarify what nonnative invasive plant species they are referring to in Objective 6 (109.02).

Response: The definition of nonnative invasive plants can be found in the glossary section of the revised plan:

Species that are not native to the ecosystem being described and that cause, or have the potential to cause, ecological or economic harm.

Individual species are not listed in Objective -6 as it would restrict the management of nonnative invasive plants that may become threats in the future due to changes in climate or other ecosystem conditions.

Watersheds

Watersheds - General

Concern WATER-01: The Forest Service should place a major emphasis on watershed protection and restoration as a goal (15.01; 15.02; 15.03; 48.05; 109.10; 114.09).

Response: One of the focal points of the revised plan is the need to improve watershed conditions on the Prescott NF. This was identified as one of the needs for change in management direction, and as such, desired conditions, objectives, and standards and guidelines addressing these concerns have been developed. The desired conditions describe how the watersheds on the Prescott NF should look and function, the objectives provide direction to help meet these desired conditions, and the standards and guidelines provide guidance for project and activity decisionmaking.

Watershed-related plan components were developed to cover surface flows, riparian areas, soil productivity and function, municipal water supplies, and groundwater resources. These include six sets of desired conditions (DC-Watershed-1 through 6), seven plan objectives (Objectives 18 through 23 and Objective 31), and two sets of standards and guidelines (Std-WS-1 through 3, Guide-WS-1 through 11, and Guide-Soils-1 through 5).

Based on public comments and internal review, revisions were made to some of these plan components between the draft and final versions of the revised plan to strengthen management direction and to clarify guidance.

Concern WATER-02: The Forest Service should revise the wording on Need for Change 2; the recommendation is “Consideration to include a properly functional watershed, providing stable habitats for both biological diversity and human recreational uses.” (114.09).

Response: The existing wording for Need for Change 2 in Chapter 1 of the revised plan states:

Retain or improve watershed integrity to provide desired water quality, quantity, and timing of delivery.

It was determined that the existing wording is more direct and better frames the intent of the statement. Therefore, no changes were made to this Need for Change between the draft and final versions of the revised plan.

Concern WATER-03: The Forest Service should modify the Watershed Standards and Guidelines (85.06; 85.29).

Response: Based on comments, the Forest Service reviewed the Watershed Standards and Guidelines. It was determined that the Standards and Guidelines are adequate as written and do not require any changes between the draft and final versions of the revised plan.

Concern WATER-04: The Forest Service should re-evaluate the statement "soil condition rating is at or trending toward satisfactory" (74.02; 85.27; 90.02; 92.01).

Response: The desired condition statements for watershed and soils were reviewed and some were modified to be more specific, realistic and achievable. The statement "Soil condition rating

is at or trending toward satisfactory" was modified to "Soils with a condition rating below satisfactory (i.e. impaired or unsatisfactory) do not further decline in function and trend toward a satisfactory rating where environmental factors allow" for inclusion in the revised plan.

Concern WATER-05: The Forest Service should modify Objectives 18 and 20 in terms of reaching the desired conditions for the Prescott NF watersheds (75.02; 75.03).

Response: Based on public comments and internal review, the Prescott NF Leadership revised Objectives 18 and 20 in the selected alternative for the revised plan. The new language for Objective 18 changes the extent of the objective and clarifies that the emphasis is on high-priority watersheds. As re-written, Objective 18 states:

Within each high priority watershed, implement 5 to 50 essential projects that improve or maintain watershed conditions during the 10 years following plan approval.

Objective 20 was modified by removing language referencing routine road and trail maintenance, as it was decided that the inclusion of routine maintenance would weaken the objective. Objective 20, as re-written, states:

Repair or relocate 20 to 100 miles of National Forest System roads or trails that impact watershed integrity during the 10 years following plan approval.

No other changes were made to Objective 20.

Concern WATER-06: The Forest Service should adopt Objective 23 to benefit the seeps and springs on the forest (109.07).

Response: The Prescott NF Leadership Team revised Objective 23 in the selected alternative for the revised plan to clarify its focus on seeps and springs. Objective 23, as re-written, states:

Maintain or enhance 25 to 55 discrete sites that are water dependent ecosystems containing seeps and springs during the 10 years following plan approval.

No other changes were made to Objective 23.

Concern WATER-07: For watershed, recommend reducing woody species (46.04; 91.11).

Response: As noted in the Need for Change section in Chapter 1 of the EIS, undesirable soil and vegetation conditions have reduced the watershed integrity within several sub-basins on the Prescott NF. The revised plan contains desired conditions for watersheds that include retaining or enhancing soil and vegetation conditions in upland and riparian settings (DC-Watershed-1) and an objective to treat 20,000 to 90,000 acres in juniper grasslands, piñon-juniper evergreen shrub, and piñon-juniper woodlands PNVTs to improve watershed conditions (Objective 3).

Concern WATER-08: The Forest Service should improve the Granite Basin Lake watershed to prevent the flow of silt into the lake (85.49).

Response: Improvements to the watershed containing Granite Basin Lake could be considered under Objective-18 as an essential project that improves or maintains watershed conditions. Because the revised plan is strategic in nature, it does not include project level decisions. Those

decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement.

Watersheds - Riparian

Concern WATER-09: The Forest Service should provide clarification as to the current conditions of the riparian areas on the Prescott NF (81.21; 102.19).

Response: The Need for Change 2 section of Chapter 3 of the EIS summarizes the current watershed conditions on the Prescott NF and the consequences of implementing the revised plan or its alternatives. This includes a summary analysis of the conditions of and consequences to the riparian areas, seeps, and springs on the forest. The full analysis can be found in the “Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Hydrology and Soils Specialist Report” (Forest Service, 2011d). Initial findings on the sustainability of and risks to watersheds can be found in the “Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b) prepared for the Prescott NF and referenced in the EIS.

Concern WATER-10: The Forest Service should include strong measures, including additional standards, for valuing and protecting the soil and riparian resources of the forest, in the forest plan (4.05; 85.1a; 85.03; 85.04; 85.05; 90.04; 91.13; 102.46; 102.47; 108.01; 108.02).

Response: The revised plan contains a strong commitment to protecting and restoring soil function and riparian areas on the Prescott NF. Desired conditions, objectives, and standards and guidelines addressing these issues have been developed to guide management of soil and riparian resources.

The second set of desired conditions for watersheds (DC-Watershed-2) focuses on riparian areas, and the third set of desired conditions focuses on soil productivity and function (DC-Watershed-3). To assist in achieving DC-Watershed-2, the Prescott NF has included an objective in the revised plan to counter 1 to 3 critical threats to riparian system functionality (Objective 19), and a new objective to pursue the acquisition of in-stream flow water rights to protect riparian aquifer recharge (Objective 31).

The standards and guidelines for watersheds and soils provide guidance for project and site-specific decisionmaking to help achieve the desired conditions and objectives. Two of the three watershed standards (Std-WS-1 and 3) are aimed at protecting riparian corridors, along with seven of the eleven watershed guidelines (Guide-WS-3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10). There are five soils guidelines (Guide-Soils-1 to 5), including three new guidelines (Guide-Soils-3 to 5) developed between the draft and final versions of the revised plan.

Concern WATER-11: The Forest Service should expand the Riparian Areas, Seeps, and Springs Affected Environment section of the EIS (92.03).

Response: Based on public comments and internal deliberation, the Prescott NF Leadership developed a new alternative (Alternative E) as the selected alternative for the revised plan. The new alternative contains changes to two objective (Objective 19 and Objective 23) discussed in the Riparian Areas, Seeps, and Springs section of the EIS. As a result, the Riparian Areas, Seeps, and Springs analysis was revised and expanded.

Concern WATER-12: The east side of Prescott NF is being impacted by random use which causes disruption to the riparian habitat (111.03).

Response: One of the focal points of the revised plan is the need to improve watershed conditions on the Prescott NF. Protecting or improving watersheds would help to maintain or improve aquatic and riparian species habitat. This is addressed in the desired conditions for watersheds (DC-Watershed-2) where it states:

Riparian corridors are intact and are trending toward properly functioning condition across the landscape.

To assist in achieving this desired condition, the Prescott NF has included an objective in the revised plan to counter 1 to 3 critical threats to riparian system functionality (Objective 19).

Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers

WWSR - General

Concern WWSR -01: The Forest Service should review and clarify the Wilderness and W&SR Standards and Guidelines (35.17; 93.10; 93.11; 93.12).

Response: Based on comments and Forest Service review, the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Standards and Guidelines were separated from Recreation and placed in a new Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers section. Wilderness Standard 1 was modified to emphasize wilderness characteristics and now reads:

Wilderness characteristics and values shall take precedence over recreation uses where conflicts occur.

A new Wilderness Guideline (Guide-Wild-10) was added to replace separate Management Area guidelines for each recommended wilderness areas in Chapter 5. There were no other changes to the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Standards and Guidelines.

Concern WWSR -02: The Forest Service should ensure any new recreation areas do not preclude any sections of the upper Verde River from further consideration as a wild and scenic river (85.47; 85.48; 93.06).

Response: The Wild and Scenic River Standard #2 ensures that authorized uses do not adversely affect either the eligibility or the tentative classification of river segments that are eligible for wild/scenic river designation. This would include approximately 38 miles of the upper Verde River upstream from Clarkdale to the Prescott NF boundary near Paulden.

Concern WWSR -03: The Forest Service should move the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers to the physical or biological categories within the desired conditions and standards and guidelines sections and insert references to Management Area direction in pertinent sections of the Forest Plan (93.01; 93.02; 93.03; 93.04; 93.14; 93.15).

Response: Between draft and final versions of the revised plan, the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers sections were separated from Recreation, but are still categorized under Social and Economic Resources within the desired conditions and standards and guidelines sections rather

than Physical or Biological Resources. A new Wilderness guideline (Guide-Wild-10) was added to replace separate Management Area guidelines for each recommended wilderness areas in Chapter 5.

Concern WWSR -04: The Forest Service should add “wilderness character” to the list of values under Desired Conditions Open Space-1 (35.13).

Response: Based on comments, the Forest Service reviewed the list of values under DC-Open Space-1. Wilderness character was not added to this list as it is incorporated into the Desired Conditions for Wilderness in DC-Wild-1.

Concern WWSR -05: The Forest Service should reference DC-Wild and Scenic-1 as one of the goals for Objective 24 (93.08).

Response: In response to comments, the Forest Service added a reference to DC-Wild and Scenic-1 in Objective 24.

Concern WWSR -06: The Forest Service should not propose new wilderness areas where the watersheds are not functioning properly (15.07).

Response: Areas recommended for future wilderness designation under the revised plan will be managed to retain their wilderness character (DC-Wild-1) until Congress takes action, if ever, to formally designate them. Concurrently, Desired Conditions have been written describing how the watersheds on the Prescott NF should look and function, and Objectives 18 through 23 provide direction to help meet these desired conditions. These objectives apply forest-wide, and could include areas recommended for wilderness designation.

Recommended wilderness areas are not subject to the same management restrictions as formally designated wilderness. Where watersheds may not be functioning properly, the Forest Supervisor may exercise discretion in determining that proposed site-specific actions are consistent with retaining the area’s wilderness character, while meeting other resource management objectives.

Concern WWSR -07: The Forest Service should add a number of new objectives for the benefit of wilderness (93.07).

Response: Between the draft and final versions of the revised plan, the Forest Service did not add any new objectives pertaining to wilderness. When developing alternative E for the revised plan, the Prescott NF Leadership Team took a number of factors into consideration, including the need to balance competing uses on the forest and work towards desired conditions while operating within expected funding levels. Although new objectives were proposed for many resource areas, the Prescott NF Leadership Team chose to adopt only two new objectives in the final Plan, and these objectives address the issues of instream flow water rights and securing lost historic access to the forest. The specific suggestions for new wilderness objectives were not adopted because they provided direction more suitable to the Monitoring Strategy found in chapter 6 of the revised plan.

Concern WWSR -08: The Forest Service should allow the use of fixed anchors in Granite Mountain Wilderness (95.01; 95.02).

Response: The revised plan does allow for the use and maintenance of existing fixed anchors for rock climbing in Granite Mountain Wilderness; however, new fixed anchor routes and the use of

power drills and other electro-mechanical or pneumatic devices for maintaining existing anchors is prohibited. This direction is contained in the first Standard for the Williamson Valley South Management Area.

Concern WWSR -09: The Forest Service should clarify how it plans to maintain wilderness boundaries as ground and aerial uses increase (111.13).

Response: The revised plan contains an objective (Objective 15) to mark the boundaries on portions of 2 to 5 designated wilderness areas with a high risk of motorized or mechanized trespass. The specific locations and methods employed to meet this objective will be determined at the project level, and therefore are outside the scope of the decision being made.

WWSR - Mountain Bikes

Concern WWSR -10: The Forest Service should update the Wilderness Act to allow bicycles (8.02; 42.02; 42.03).

Response: It is not within the authority of the USDA Forest Service or the scope of this decision to update, modify, or amend the Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577). Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act states:

... there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

“No other form of mechanical transport” has been interpreted by the Forest Service as a prohibition of mountain bike use within designated wilderness.

Concern WWSR -11: The Forest Service should discuss the issue of mountain bikes and motorized vehicles accessing wilderness areas, throughout both the Plan and the EIS (5.33; 5.35; 5.43).

Response: The revised plan is intended to provide management direction; it does not analyze issues. The discussion of mountain bikes and motorized vehicles accessing wilderness areas is contained in the Environmental Consequences for Dispersed Recreation section of Chapter 3 in the EIS.

Concern WWSR -12: The Forest Service should not take action that would restrict mountain bike use, and consider Special Use Area designations instead of Wilderness (6.02; 6.03; 7.02; 7.03; 8.01; 12.02; 12.03; 32.02; 32.03; 33.01; 42.01; 49.01; 54.02; 57.04; 60.01; 60.02; 60.03; 60.05; 60.08; 60.09; 65.01; 70.07; 88.02; 88.03; 88.04; 88.05; 94.10; 105.01; 107.01; 107.02; 107.03).

Response: Based on public comments and internal discussion, the Forest Service changed the set of potential wilderness areas (PWAs) recommended for wilderness designation in the final revised plan (alternative E). The wilderness recommendations were selected to balance concerns for recreation and administrative access with the public’s desire to expand existing wilderness opportunities. All eight recommended PWAs are contiguous to existing designated wilderness, with few if any trails that do not cross over into the existing wilderness areas. As mountain bike are not allowed in designated wilderness areas, it was thought that the change should minimize

the disruption to existing mountain biking opportunities, compared to the other alternatives that contained more wilderness recommendations.

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) (P.L. 94-588) requires that all areas meeting minimum criteria as wilderness (i.e., roadless and undeveloped) be considered for recommendation for wilderness designation during plan revision. There are similar requirements for the consideration of research natural areas and wild and scenic rivers; however, there are no requirements to consider Special Use Areas as it is not a formal classification. There are no recommendations to designate any of these three types of areas in the revised plan.

WWSR - Recommended and Potential Wilderness Areas

Concern WWSR -13: The Forest Service should recommend various Potential Wilderness Areas for wilderness designation (35.07; 35.10; 82.03; 85.51; 85.72; 85.76; 93.22; 99.01; 108.04; 109.11; 113.03).

Concern WWSR -14: The Forest Service should not recommend any Potential Wilderness Areas for wilderness designation (6.01; 7.01; 11.02; 11.03; 12.01; 32.01; 36.06; 36.07; 38.01; 39.01; 40.01; 40.03; 40.07; 56.02; 57.02; 114.01; 114.02; 114.21).

Response: As part of the Forest Plan Revision process, the Prescott NF identified and evaluated potential wilderness areas (PWAs) according to the procedure outlined in agency guidance (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70). Eight of twenty-eight potential wilderness areas were recommended for wilderness designation by the Prescott NF Leadership Team. These areas are Apache Creek A PWA, Castle Creek PWA, Cedar Bench A PWA, Cedar Bench B PWA, Juniper Mesa PWA, Pine Mountain B PWA, Sycamore Canyon A PWA, and Woodchute PWA. These PWAs were selected by the Prescott NF Leadership Team to complement the desired conditions stated in the revised plan. All eight PWAs are contiguous to existing designated wilderness and will increase the quantity and diversity of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities on the Prescott NF. When selecting the recommended areas, the Prescott NF Leadership Team considered the opportunity costs associated with wilderness designation, as well as issues raised in public comments. These included the desire for additional opportunities for solitude in an unconfined setting, calls to preserve existing access for mountain bikes, and the operational needs of livestock-grazing permittees. More information can be found in the “Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Wilderness Recommendations by Forest Plan Alternative” (Forest Service, 2014b), which can be accessed on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement).

The Regional Forester will choose whether or not to offer any recommended wilderness areas for further review by the Chief of the Forest Service. The Chief may elect to forward a recommendation with bill wording to the Secretary of Agriculture, who may elect to transmit the proposed bill to Congress. It takes an act of Congress to designate a Wilderness Area, and the process of drafting and passing a wilderness bill can take an uncertain amount of time. The most recent legislation to create designated wilderness in Arizona was the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990.

Concern WWSR -15: The Forest Service should not recommend Black Canyon Potential Wilderness Area for wilderness designation (37.01; 37.02; 37.06; 38.04; 39.02; 40.02; 40.08;

41.01; 41.02; 41.04; 50.01; 50.02; 50.03; 51.01; 51.02; 52.02; 55.02; 57.03; 60.06; 60.11; 61.01; 88.06; 94.01; 94.11; 98.01; 98.03; 98.04; 103.01; 103.02; 107.04).

Response: The Prescott NF Leadership Team recommended eight Potential Wilderness Areas for wilderness designation; Black Canyon Potential Wilderness Area was not among the PWAs recommended.

The recommended areas are Apache Creek A PWA, Castle Creek PWA, Cedar Bench A PWA, Cedar Bench B PWA, Juniper Mesa PWA, Pine Mountain B PWA, Sycamore Canyon A PWA, and Woodchute PWA.

Concern WWSR -16: The Forest Service should re-evaluate some of the Potential Wilderness Areas (75.11; 85.53; 85.55; 85.57; 85.58; 85.59; 85.60; 85.61; 85.62; 85.63; 85.64; 85.65; 85.66; 85.67; 85.68; 85.69; 85.70; 85.71; 85.73; 85.74; 85.77; 85.78; 85.79; 93.17; 93.18; 93.19; 93.20; 93.21).

Response: The 1982 Planning Rule Provisions provide direction for conducting forest plan revision efforts and outline the requirement for the potential wilderness evaluation as follows:

...[unroaded] areas within the National Forest System shall be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness areas during the forest planning process...

(Section 217.17)

The methodology and results of this evaluation were documented in the “Prescott National Forest Potential Wilderness Evaluation Report” (Forest Service, 2012). Although this report contained ratings for the potential wilderness areas, it did not contain any recommendations of areas for wilderness designation.

Twenty-eight potential wilderness areas were identified and evaluated according to the process stipulated in the Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70, with additional guidance provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office as noted in the Prescott NF 2012 Potential Wilderness Evaluation (PWE) report. Although some of the areas identified overlapped with inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) identified in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, the PWA boundaries were separate and distinct. Eight of the twenty-eight PWAs were determined to be incapable of supporting wilderness character and were not considered for further evaluation.

The twenty remaining PWAs were assessed for availability and need in the PWE, and all but two (Fritsche A and Pine Mountain A PWAs) were included in alternatives evaluated for the EIS. The PWAs recommended in each alternative are also listed in the Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Wilderness Recommendations by Forest Plan Alternative (Forest Service, 2014b) which can be accessed on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site (www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement).

The ratings for the PWAs were but one of a number of factors considered by the Prescott NF Leadership Team when crafting their final recommendations for submission to the Regional Forester. Other factors included public comments in support or against particular areas, the need for active management in some areas to restore ecosystem functions, and concerns over the disruption of existing access for recreation and administrative use.

Concern WWSR -17: The Forest Service should clarify how the discretion of the Forest Supervisor would affect the management of recommended wilderness areas (60.04).

Response: Areas recommended for future wilderness designation under the revised plan will be managed to retain their wilderness character (DC-Wild-1) until Congress takes action, if ever, to formally designate them. However, recommended wilderness areas are not subject to the same management restrictions as formally designated wilderness. The Forest Supervisor may exercise discretion in determining that proposed site-specific actions within a given recommended wilderness area are consistent with retaining the area's wilderness character.

Concern WWSR -18: The Forest Service is required to manage and protect all potential wilderness areas as if they were designated wilderness until Congress makes a determination as to their eligibility for wilderness designation (5.45).

Response: Section 217.17 of the 1982 Planning Rule Provisions requires that unroaded areas within the National Forest System be evaluated and considered for recommendation for wilderness designation during plan revision. The Prescott NF used the wilderness evaluation process outlined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 70; the areas assessed were identified as potential wilderness areas (PWAs). Identification as a PWA does not confer any special status to an area nor require any additional management restrictions; it simply identifies which areas were assessed in the "Prescott National Forest 2012 Potential Wilderness Evaluation Report" (Forest Service, 2012).

Areas recommended for wilderness designation by the Regional Forester will be managed to maintain their wilderness characteristics until further action is initiated by the Forest Service to forward the recommendations to Congress for designation. The list of recommended areas will be included in the Record of Decision for the revised plan.

Concern WWSR -19: The Forest Service should develop a maintenance program to ensure that recommended wilderness areas are capable of supporting natural low intensity fire regimes (15.08).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does not include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement. A fire regime maintenance program for an individual recommended wilderness area is an example of a project level decision that would not be included in the revised plan.

Wildlife

Wildlife - General

Concern WILD-01: The Forest Service should re-evaluate the Management Indicator Species selected for the forest plan (3.07; 85.01; 85.03; 91.08; 102.15; 102.30; 102.31; 104.17; 106.15; 106.16; 106.17; 106.37a).

Response: The 1982 Planning Rule Provisions (Section 219.19) provide direction for the selection and use of management indicator species (MIS) in Forest Service land management planning. There is no requirement for a minimum number of MIS. The determination to select

three MIS for the revised plan (pronghorn antelope, northern goshawk and macro-invertebrates), was based on positive answers to these questions:

- Does the species reflect major management issues or challenges? – Yes.
- Do the species habitat restoration objectives vary across alternatives? –Yes.
- Are the species relatively common but have high fidelity to specific vegetation types or habitat features? –Yes.
- Do the species demonstrate a strong and/or predictable response to management activities? –Yes.
- Does a substantial portion of the species life history occurs on Prescott NF administered lands? –Yes.
- Can the species be monitored effectively and efficiently and is already monitored? –Yes.
- Are the species monitored by other entities? –Yes.

Additional information about the MIS selection process can be found in the “Prescott National Forest Management Indicator Selection Process” (Forest Service, 2011h). The entire report is filed as part of the planning record and can be viewed on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement>.

Concern WILD-02: The Southwestern Region sensitive species list appears to be inconsistent between the Draft Plan and the EIS (85.12; 85.82).

Response: Between the draft and final versions of the revised forest plan and EIS, the 2007 Southwestern Region sensitive species list was updated. Forest biologists have reviewed the updated list to determine if any of the proposed alternatives would cause a trend toward federal listing and if any species must receive further consideration in a Biological Evaluation as required under the Endangered Species Act. The revised plan and EIS were reviewed and updated to correspond with the 2013 version of the Southwestern Region sensitive species list.

Concern WILD-03: The Forest Service should consider effects to the narrow headed garter snake and the Northern Mexican garter snake as if they were species identified under the Endangered Species Act. A detailed description of the effects to these species should be included in the Environmental Consequences of the EIS since they occupy similar habitats (81.22).

Response: The Forest Service did consider effects to the narrow headed garter snake and the Northern Mexican garter snake as if they were species identified under the Endangered Species Act. This information is found in the fisheries/aquatic species specialist report (Forest Service, 2011c) and is included as part of a biological assessment (BA) (Forest Service, 2014a) that describes the short and long term effects to federally listed species and their habitats from the actions proposed in the revised plan. The information compiled for the fisheries specialist report and the BA were used to update the EIS between draft and final, including updates on listing status, threats to species and habitat, and effects determinations by alternative. A detailed description of the effects to these species is included in the environmental consequences of the EIS since they occupy similar habitats.

Additional species information can be found in the “Fisheries Specialist Report and Viability Analysis” (Forest Service, 2011c). The entire report is filed as part of the planning record and can be viewed on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site.

Concern WILD-04: The Forest Service should use the most recent common and scientific names for the following species: (1) Northern Mexican Garter Snake – *Thamnophis Eques Megalops*. (2) Arizona Toad – *Anaxyrus microscaphus* (note this species is no longer in the genus *Bufo*). (3) Lowland Leopard Frog – *Lithobates yavapaiensis* (note this species is no longer in the genus *Rana*). (4) Sonoran Desert Tortoise – *Gopherus morafkai*. (81.01; 81.25; 81.26; 81.27).

Response: The Forest Service has updated the revised plan and EIS to reflect the most recent common and scientific names for the following species: Northern Mexican Gartersnake (*Thamnophis eques megalops*); Arizona Toad (*Anaxyrus microscaphus*); Lowland Leopard Frog (*Lithobates yavapaiensis*); and Sonoran Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*).

Concern WILD-05: The Forest Service should modify the Wildlife Standards and Guidelines to reference the State Game and Fish Department’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and the State Game and Fish Department’s Central Arizona Grassland Strategy for pronghorn (114.08).

Response: The wildlife standards and guidelines include references to the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list which includes many of the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s SGCN. At the project level, ongoing coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish Department exists to identify site-specific SGCN concerns and opportunities.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Central Arizona Grassland Strategy (CAGS) was not listed specifically in the pronghorn guidelines, but it is included generally in the phrase “work done by AZGFD and other partners.” This phrase is more inclusive and allows for consideration of new efforts over time.

Concern WILD-06: The Forest Service should add another bullet to the Background and Rationale section of Objective 28 that would prohibit the construction of water catchments in wilderness areas (85.13).

Response: After a review of public comments, the Prescott NF Leadership Team revised Objective 28 in the selected alternative for the revised plan to read:

Improve up to 25 existing and 5 new water developments for wildlife during the 10 years following plan approval.

However, no additional language was added to the background and rationale section of Objective 28. The suggestion to prohibit the construction of water catchments in wilderness areas is an example of a project level decision that would require future site-specific NEPA analysis along with the opportunity for public involvement.

Wildlife - Aquatic Species

Concern WILD-07: The Forest Service should provide clarification as to the current conditions of aquatic ecosystems and associated species on the Prescott NF (106.31).

Response: The Need for Change 4 section of Chapter 3 of the EIS summarizes the current conditions for fisheries, other aquatic and riparian species, and associated habitats on the Prescott NF and the consequences of implementing the revised plan or its alternatives. This includes a summary analysis of the conditions of and consequences to the riparian and aquatic ecosystems and associated species on the forest. The full analysis for aquatic ecosystems and associated species can be found in the “Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Fisheries Specialist Report and Viability Analysis” (Forest Service, 2011c).

Concern WILD-08: The Forest Service should adopt an ecosystem approach to management of aquatic habitats in this Forest Plan revision similar to what the agency did nearly two decades ago in the Pacific Northwest (106.48).

Response: The approach to management of aquatic habitats in this Forest Plan is specific to the environmental conditions and habitat conservation needs found within the planning area including expected effects from a changing climate and other stressors.

Early plan revision efforts included ecosystem assessments of how management under the existing 1987 plan (as amended), was affecting the sustainability of aquatic and riparian species and their habitats within the planning area. In 2009, the results were published as part of the “Analysis of the Management Situation” (Forest Service, 2009a). As part of this analysis, the Forest Service identified two priority needs for change regarding the management of aquatic habitats. With information on existing and desired aquatic ecosystem conditions, plan components were developed to address these needs for change.

Concern WILD-09: The Forest Service should reconsider the effects of not doing any native fish restoration work under alternative A (81.28)

Response: Alternative A places a low emphasis on native fish restoration. The Forest Service concluded that alternative A has the “least effect” rather than a “negative effect” because this alternative maintains native fish species viability within the action area, but with no expected changes in native fish habitat quantity or distribution.

Concern WILD-10: The Forest Service should separate the analysis of effects of the alternatives for spikedace and loach minnow (81.30).

Response: The Forest Service evaluated the environmental consequences of the alternatives on spikedace and loach minnow species separately but disclosed the results in the EIS in a combined fashion because the effects were similar. Providing separate write-ups would have resulted in unnecessary duplication of content and a larger EIS.

Concern WILD-11: The Forest Service should include the Gila topminnow in the effects analysis (81.23).

Response: The Forest Service updated the EIS to include effects analysis for Gila topminnow habitat within the analysis area in consideration of possible future re-introductions of this

endangered fish species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Concern WILD-12: The Forest Service should use the following language to more accurately describe the status of the spikedace species in the Verde River, "Spikedace were last detected in the Verde River in 1999. Because of this species' small size and low numbers, it is difficult to detect; however, we believe that spikedace, while rare, may still persist in the uppermost reaches of the Verde River. Spikedace have been trans-located into Fossil Creek, a tributary to the Verde River in Gila County, Arizona, in 2007, and were subsequently augmented in 2008, 2011, and 2012." (81.24).

Response: The Forest Service has updated sections of the EIS related to the status and/or habitat conditions of federally listed species. Based on information compiled for the Biological Assessment and recent conversations with biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the section describing the status of spikedace within the action area has been updated and revised to read:

Historically, spikedace were collected in the Verde River above Camp Verde and the lower ends of Beaver Creek and West Clear Creek in 1938, and in the Verde River above Camp Verde in 1950 (Minckley, 1993). The species was first collected in the upper Verde River in the 1890s (ASU, 2002). Currently, the upper Verde River is presumed to be occupied by spikedace but they are rare based on extensive surveys (AZGFD, 2000a-b, 2001, 2005a-c; Bahm and Robinson, 2009; Robinson and Crowder, 2009; Forest Service, 2010a; Fish and Wildlife Service, 2005). The last capture of a spikedace was documented during surveys in 1999 (Brouder, 2002). Spikedace populations are extirpated from the lower Verde River in the Verde Valley (Fish and Wildlife Service, 2007).

Concern WILD-13: The Forest Service should add a statement regarding the improvement of watershed characteristics to Need for Change 4 (114.10).

Response: No changes were made the Needs for Change section in Chapter 1 between the draft and final versions of the revised plan. Need for Change 4 focuses on the need to provide desired habitat for native fish species. Need for Change 2 discusses the need for the improvement of watershed characteristics, covering the need to improve water quality for human health and safety and to improve and maintain watersheds for aquatic and riparian species habitat.

Wildlife - Habitat

Concern WILD-14: The Forest Service should make a determination in the biological assessment of whether their proposed action would be likely to adversely affect critical habitat for razorback sucker, southwestern willow flycatcher, spikedace, and loach minnow (81.29).

Response: The Biological Assessment (BA) describing the short and long term effects to 14 federally listed, proposed and candidate species and their habitats from the proposed actions and direction contained within the revised plan included determinations of "May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect" for the critical habitats of the razorback sucker, southwestern willow flycatcher, spikedace, and loach minnow.

Concern WILD-15: The Forest Service should be looking at the ability of the upper Verde River riparian forest to support bird life (85.02).

Response: As part of the forest plan revision process, a review of ecosystem conditions and species diversity was conducted. The “Ecological Sustainability Report” (ESR) (Forest Service, 2009b) identifies the diversity of ecosystem and species known to occur within the planning area, including riparian forests and bird species. The findings from the ESR were then considered in the development of the plan direction and/or components.

Plan direction that supports bird life within riparian forest ecosystems includes: The revised plan includes desired conditions for the Verde River (DC-Wild&Scenic-1), riparian gallery forests (DC-Veg-23), ecosystem resilience (DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1) and watershed integrity (DC-Watershed-2). Additionally, several standards and guidelines in chapter 4 provide project-specific guidance for trending toward or achieving these desired conditions.

Wildlife - Mexican spotted owl

Concern WILD-16: The Forest Service should include specific direction for Mexican spotted owl management in the revised plan (81.09).

Response: Based on comments and Forest Service review, Prescott NF leadership decided to add language in the desired conditions for ponderosa pine-Gambel oak related to vegetation composition and structure that better describe Mexican spotted owl habitat (DC-Veg-17, DC-Veg-18, and DC-Veg-20). This direction is in addition to the first guideline for terrestrial wildlife (Guide-WL-1) which requires adherence to recovery plans for federally listed species, including Mexican spotted owls. These plan decisions would be incorporated into future site-specific projects or activities that could potentially affect Mexican spotted owl habitat.

Concern WILD-17: The Forest Service should clarify the desired conditions, extent, and location of Mexican spotted owl habitat on the Prescott NF (81.03; 81.11; 81.12; 81.13; 85.39).

Response: Between the draft and final versions of the revised forest plan and EIS, the desired conditions, extent, and location of Mexican spotted owl habitat on the Prescott NF were clarified, adding specificity to the Desired Conditions for Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak Forest section of Chapter 2 of the revised plan and the Affected Environment section for Mexican spotted owls in Chapter 3 of the EIS.

Concern WILD-18: The Forest contains more than 112,000 acres of pine-oak habitat. It is not clear how the Forest Service arrived at an estimate of only 26,448 acres of suitable habitat for Mexican spotted owls as stated on page 69 of the DEIS (106.03).

Response: The 112,000 acres of pine-oak vegetation found on the Prescott National Forest includes all stages of vegetation development including areas that are recently burned, are of recent regrowth, and/or are composed of mostly small-diameter trees. These areas are not considered to be suitable habitat for Mexican spotted owls. The amount of ponderosa pine/Gambel oak forest having large-diameter trees with dense canopy cover and snags and downed logs is approximately 26,448 acres.

Concern WILD-19: The Forest Service should clarify the beneficial effect to Mexican spotted owl (MSO) from vegetation treatments in the ponderosa pine-Gambel oak vegetation type (85.36).

Response: As described in the Environmental Consequences for Federally Listed Species section in Need for Change 1 – Chapter 3 of the EIS:

The most important benefit of proposed treatments within the ponderosa pine-Gambel oak PNVT is the reduction of potential for large, landscape scale, stand-replacing wildfires that could destroy or damage MSO habitat.

Fires of this nature are one of the biggest threats to the MSO and its habitat. Large snags, areas with relatively large trees and closed canopies (for nesting), and areas with more open tree canopies (for foraging) are some of the important habitat features necessary for quality MSO habitat. Desired conditions and guidelines would ensure the presence of snags across the landscape and an increase in the abundance and distribution of large trees across the ponderosa pine-Gambel oak PNVT. A reduction in canopy closure and the resulting increase in understory vegetation in some of the ponderosa pine-Gambel oak PNVT would improve foraging habitat for MSO in terms of prey species availability. Improving and maintaining these facets of the MSO habitat would be expected to have beneficial impacts to the species on the Prescott NF.

Habitat management objectives and species protection measures would be applied to activities occurring within MSO habitat. These objectives and measures are issued in the form of recovery plans from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and would be followed throughout implementation as stated in the wildlife guidelines section of the plan.

Concern WILD-20: The Forest Service should clarify in the EIS the threats to the Mexican spotted owl and its habitat (81.14; 81.18).

Response: The Forest Service has updated sections of the EIS related to the status and/or habitat conditions of federally listed species. Based on information compiled for the Biological Assessment and recent conversations with biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the section describing threats to the Mexican spotted owl resulting from implementation of the proposed revised plan has been updated to include urban and rural development, mining activities, and forest fuel reduction projects in addition to stand-replacing fire.

Concern WILD-21: The DEIS contains no explanation why the management direction under the proposed action alternatives will avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of Mexican spotted owl or adversely modifying its critical habitat. (106.06).

Response: The EIS discloses in chapter 3 under the environmental consequences section for the Mexican spotted owl that:

Moving the natural habitat for MSO toward the desired condition would be expected to improve the habitat for this species across the landscape. Desired conditions and guidelines for snags would ensure the presence of snags across the landscape. Increasing the abundance and distribution of large trees across the landscape would provide additional nesting habitat for MSO. Reducing canopy closure and increasing understory vegetation would improve habitat for MSO prey species across the

landscape. Improving these two facets of the MSO habitat would be expected to have beneficial impacts to the species on the Prescott NF.

Although the relative proportion of ponderosa pine-Gambel oak PNVT with medium/large trees and closed canopy slightly decreases in all alternatives, the improved quality of foraging habitat in the medium/large trees with open canopy may have an overall beneficial effect to MSO. The most important benefit to the proposed treatments within the ponderosa pine-Gambel oak PNVT is the reduction of potential for large, landscape scale, stand-replacing wildfires that could eliminate MSO habitat.

For all of the alternatives, in the process of implementing projects/objectives, some tree habitat features will be negatively impacted for a short term. However, moving toward the desired conditions in all of the alternatives for the ponderosa pine-Gambel oak PNVT will ultimately provide additional tree habitat features across the landscape as young and mid-size/age trees are cultivated to grow into larger and/or older trees in the long term.

This rationale is the basis for the statement that “implementation of any alternative may render a “May affect, likely to adversely affect” determination for Mexican spotted owl and a “May affect, likely to adversely affect” determination for Mexican spotted owl critical habitat.”

Wildlife - Pronghorn

Concern WILD-22: The increased efforts to improve pronghorn habitat and migration corridors are critical to pronghorn survival (75.04; 91.04; 91.05).

Response: We agree that there is a need to improve pronghorn habitat and migration corridors on the Prescott NF. Desired conditions describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function. They provide the basis for developing the objectives, standards, and guidelines identified in the revised plan that will guide management on the forest. The desired conditions for grasslands (DC-Veg-21) state, in part, that:

Composition, structure, and cover provide habitat for native animals associated with grasslands, especially pronghorn antelope ...

and the desired conditions for terrestrial wildlife (DC-Wildlife-1) includes the statement:

Wildlife in habitats associated with animal movement corridors are free from human harassment.

To assist in achieving these desired conditions, the Prescott NF has included terrestrial wildlife habitat objectives in the revised plan to modify or remove fence (Objective 25), treat up to 90,000 acres to improve pronghorn habitat (Objective 26), and focus treatments in 2 or 3 areas to facilitate pronghorn migration (Objective 27).

Wildlife guideline 3, stipulating an 18-inch maximum height for cutting juniper in pronghorn habitat, allows for pronghorn sight distance in order to make it effective habitat. It is recognized that this guideline may increase the per acre costs for juniper thinning projects in pronghorn habitat, but this plan component is necessary to reduce risk to pronghorn species viability.

Concern WILD-23: The Forest Service should create a set of desired future conditions (DFCs) that specifically address the needs of antelope and deer (102.41).

Response: Desired conditions describe how the resources on the Prescott NF should look and function. They provide the basis for developing the objectives, standards, and guidelines identified in the revised plan that will guide management on the forest. The desired conditions for grasslands (DC-Veg-21) state, in part, that:

Composition, structure, and cover provide habitat for native animals associated with grasslands, especially pronghorn antelope ...

Pronghorn antelope was specifically mentioned because it was chosen as a management indicator species (MIS) for the Prescott NF. Pronghorn antelope demonstrates a strong and/or predictable response to proposed management activities within the grasslands, including prescribed fire; shrub and tree thinning/removal; road and/or trail maintenance; and watershed or rangeland improvements. By monitoring pronghorn habitats and populations, the health and productivity of grassland ecosystems can be assessed.

The needs of deer are not specifically addressed in the revised plan. Deer were not chosen as a management indicator species, nor do they have a special status such as Federally-listed or regionally sensitive. Therefore, there is no reason to develop desired conditions that specifically address their needs. However, deer would benefit from actions implemented to meet the desired conditions for the vegetation types where they have suitable habitat.

Concern WILD-24: The Forest Service should provide clarification as to how specific / significant management changes in any program would indicate antelope will do anything more than continue to decline (102.33; 102.37).

Response: Potential impacts to pronghorn antelope from implementing the proposed revised plan and its alternatives are disclosed in Chapter 3 of the EIS in the sections titled Terrestrial Species Viability and Management Indicator Species. In summary, all of the action alternatives are expected to improve the quality of habitat provided on Prescott NF lands as treatment objectives are implemented. Population trends are expected to remain static or possibly increase under the action alternatives as Prescott NF lands provide future alternate habitat for pronghorn displaced from non-Forest Service lands due to development or fragmentation of habitat.

Several plan components are specifically designed to improve pronghorn habitat conditions (Objective 25, 26, & 27). Where suitable habitat occurs, Objective 28 would also improve pronghorn habitat quality. By following Guideline-Wildlife-3, fence specifications, fawning habitat needs, migration corridors, and general habitat improvement would be part of project design and implementation on Prescott NF lands addressed.

Concern WILD-25: The Forest Service should clarify the language in Objectives 26 and 27 to describe careful selection of vegetation to be retained (35.14).

Response: The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature and the EIS does not address project-specific actions. Actions of that nature are addressed after the revised plan is in place. The selection of vegetation that should be retained is an example of a project level action that is not appropriate to include in the revised plan.

Wildlife - Raptors

Concern WILD-26: The Forest Service should include the bald eagle in the EIS as a highlighted terrestrial species in the species viability table (81.10).

Response: Tables 12 and 34 in the EIS address viability concerns for species associated with terrestrial habitats and aquatic and riparian habitats respectively. Both tables highlight the fine filter plan components (e.g., standards and guidelines) that are necessary to reduce species viability concerns to a level of no or low risk. The bald eagle is listed in table 34 rather than table 12 because it is associated with features found near aquatic and riparian habitats.

Concern WILD-27: The Forest Service should provide all applicable studies showing that the proposed vegetation treatments in Objective 5 will provide beneficial impacts to Northern goshawk (85.37).

Response: The references to the published studies showing that the proposed vegetation treatments in Objective 5 will provide beneficial impacts to Northern goshawk are found in the section titled, "Environmental Consequences for Management Indicator Species" in Chapter 3 of the EIS. Full citations are included in the References section of the EIS.

The references include:

- Salafsky et al. (2005) suggesting that prey density is an important limiting factor of goshawk productivity.
- Salafsky, et al. (2007) showed that increased prey density resulted in increased goshawk reproduction in ponderosa pine.
- Dewey and Kennedy (2001) reported that significantly heavier nestlings from nests with supplemental food had higher survival rates than nestlings in control nests
- Ward and Kennedy (1996) reported that although there was no significant difference in nestling sizes due to additional food availability, they did document higher nestling survival due to increased time spent at the nest by females which consequently provided protection from predators
- Wiens et al. (2006) reported that food availability was the primary factor limiting juvenile survival and recommended forest treatments that provide forest structural conditions that allow goshawks to access their prey within breeding areas.
- Reynolds and others Forest Service researchers (2013) identified the importance of the grass-forb-shrub prey base and how restoring the grass-forb-shrub structural component of frequent-fire forests leads to more robust food webs for the northern goshawk.

Concern WILD-28: We question the claim (DEIS page 85) that "Over the next 20 years, additional nesting habitat for the goshawk would occur from increases in the abundance and distribution of medium to large trees growing within the Ponderosa pine PNVTs" (85.36a).

Response: Computer modeling was used to forecast the response of the PNVTs to human-caused and natural disturbances proposed or expected under each of the alternatives. Several shifts in the vegetation structure (tree size and density) are expected after 20 years for the Ponderosa Pine PNVTs, including stands of medium and large-diameter trees becoming more open from thinning treatments and prescribed fire; and a higher proportion of bigger trees resulting from natural

diameter growth. Hence, the conclusion that additional nesting habitat for the goshawk would occur from increases in the abundance and distribution of medium to large trees.

Additional information about the vegetation modelling can be found in the “Prescott National Forest Vegetation and Fire Ecology Specialist Report” (Forest Service, 2012). The entire report is filed as part of the planning record and can be viewed on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site.

Concern WILD-29: The Forest Service should re-consider the area closure associated with nesting peregrine on Granite Mountain (95.03).

Response: Area closures can be an effective tool to ensure that Southwestern Region sensitive species do not trend toward listing as threatened or endangered. Area closures associated with nesting peregrine on Granite Mountain are consistent with wildlife guidance (Guide-WL-2) in the revised plan. Area closures are developed on a site-specific basis subject to appropriate NEPA analysis. The revised plan is, by design, strategic in nature. It does include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed, and there is opportunity for public involvement.

Wildlife - Viability

Concern WILD-30: The Forest Service should explain the species viability assessments in the Ecological Sustainability Report (ESR) (106.34; 106.35; 106.36).

Response: As a part of the plan revision process, a review of ecosystem conditions and species diversity was conducted beginning in 2007. The “Ecological Sustainability Report” (ESR) (Forest Service, 2009b) assessed the diversity of ecosystems and species known to occur within the Prescott NF and identified existing threats and associated risks to the long term sustainability of those ecosystems and species.

Species found or potentially found on the Prescott NF included the following categories:

- Species listed as proposed, threatened, or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- Species listed on the Southwestern Region Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list.
- Birds of conservation concern as identified by (Fish and Wildlife Service, 2008) and Arizona Partners in Flight priority species (AZGFD, 1999).
- Species identified as locally rare on the Prescott NF, and
- Declining species or species of high public interest.

Based on a series of species status reviews, an evaluation was made to determine whether there may be risks to each species’ viability because their associated habitat conditions are departed from reference conditions and/or because of their vulnerability to impacts from forest management or activities. From the initial list of 815 species, most of the common or less common (but secure) species, including those unaffected by management, were found to have no risk to viability from management. Hence, these species were not brought forward for further consideration. Those species identified as having risk to viability (121 species) were then considered in the development of plan direction and/or components.

As part of the plan revision process, coarse filter plan components (i.e., desired condition statements) were developed that describe the desired outcomes and conditions for vegetation, riparian, and aquatic features and other resources within the planning area. These desired conditions provide habitat for plants and animals which help to reduce risks to species and provide for their viability. Where desired conditions would result in low to moderate risk ratings for some species, meeting and maintaining those desired conditions would provide for their population viability. This is because low to moderate ratings of risk are assumed to be similar enough to normal ecosystem fluctuations and therefore within a species' ability to adjust, thus posing little risk to viability. Where the risk rating would be moderately-high, to high, additional fine filter plan components (e.g., standards, guidelines) were developed to address or mitigate risk.

It should be noted that the coarse-fine filter approach is not entirely discrete in that standards and guidelines can contribute to viability for some coarse filter species; while the needs of fine filter species can also be provided for, in part, by coarse filter desired conditions and potential natural vegetation types (PNVTs).

Concern WILD-31: The Forest Service should explain in the EIS how species viability for northern goshawk will be ensured (106.18; 106.19; 106.20; 106.21; 106.22; 106.24).

Response: The Background for Terrestrial Species Diversity and Viability section in Need for Change 1 – Chapter 3 of the EIS explains the process the Forest Service took to assess viability concerns for the northern goshawk. As shown in table 12 of the EIS, the northern goshawk was determined to be at some potential viability risk and that:

coarse filter plan components (various desired condition statements) plus fine filter plan components (various standards or guidelines) are necessary to reduce viability to a level of no or low risk.

The relevant coarse filter plan components would be those desired habitat conditions associated with the northern goshawk. The Affected Environment for Terrestrial Species Diversity and Viability section in Need for Change 1 – Chapter 3 of the EIS, explains under the heading Ponderosa Pine Forests that:

The northern goshawk is associated with the ponderosa pine PNVTs and tree features for every aspect of its life history from nesting, to roosting, to foraging ...

The fully-described desired habitat condition statements for the northern goshawk are found in Chapter 2 of the revised plan under these sections: Desired Conditions for Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak Forest and Desired Conditions for Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak Forest. The fine filter plan components applicable to northern goshawks (Guidelines-Wildlife- 2, 5, & 7) are fully described in Chapter 4 of the revised plan.

As explained in the Environmental Analyses section of the Introduction to Chapter 3 of the EIS, several assumptions were made for estimating the consequences of alternatives at the programmatic plan level, including estimating risks to species viability. These assumptions include:

- Plan decisions (i.e., desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, special areas, suitability, monitoring) would be followed when planning or implementing future site-specific projects and activities.

- Various resource management activities allowed under each alternative would in fact occur to the extent necessary to achieve the stated objectives.
- Implementation of the land management plan would facilitate progress toward the attainment of desired conditions for each resource.

Additionally, table 20 of the EIS summarizes the expected trends in northern goshawk populations, nesting habitat, and foraging habitat based on the proposed actions of each alternative. All of the action alternatives are expected to provide increased amounts of foraging and nesting habitat compared to the no action alternative. These increases in desired habitat conditions (as a result of implementing the proposed actions – i.e. vegetation treatments within the ponderosa pine PNVTs to meet desired conditions stated in Chapter 2 of the revised plan) are the basis for concluding that species viability for the northern goshawk will be ensured.

References

- Abella, S., Fulé, P., and Covington, W. (2006). Diameter caps for thinning southwestern ponderosa pine forests: Viewpoints, effects, and tradeoffs. *Journal of Forestry*, 104:407-414.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. (1999). *Arizona Partners in Flight bird conservation plan. Version 1.0*. Non-game and Endangered Wildlife Program Technical Report 142. Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. (2008). *Birds of Conservation Concern 2008*. Arlington, VA. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2007). *USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan FY 2007–2012*. Washington, DC: Washington Office.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2009a). *Analysis of the Management Situation*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2009b). *Ecological Sustainability Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2009c). *Prescott National Forest Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2010). *Prescott National Forest Research Natural Area Evaluation Process Summary Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011a). *Documentation of Minimum Management Requirements*. Prepared by Hess-Samuelson, S., Greenbelt Insights. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011b). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Air Quality Specialist Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011c). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Fisheries Specialist Report and Viability Analysis*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National

- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011d). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Hydrology and Soils Specialist Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011e). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Terrestrial Species Viability Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011f). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Vascular Plant Viability Analysis*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011g). *Socio-economic Resource Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011h). *Prescott National Forest Management Indicator Selection Process*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2012). *Prescott National Forest Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2013). *Restoring Composition and Structure in Southwestern Frequent-Fire Forests: A science-based framework for improving ecosystem resiliency*. General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-310. Fort Collins, CO: Rocky Mountain Research Station. 76 pp.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2014a). *Biological Assessment for the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2014b). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Wilderness Recommendations by Forest Plan Alternative*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Triepke, F., Higgins, B., Weisz, R., Youtz, J., and Nicolet, T.. (2011). *Diameter caps and forest restoration — Evaluation of a 16-inch cut limit on achieving desired conditions*. USDA Forest Service Forestry Report FR-R3-16-3. Albuquerque, NM: Southwestern Regional Office. 31 pp.

Appendix B. Description of the Analysis Process

Introduction

This appendix summarizes the various analyses used to assess the environmental effects of the revised plan and its alternatives as described in the main body of the environmental impact statement (EIS). The basic analytical framework and process for revising land management plans is prescribed by the 1982 Planning Rule Provisions (Sec. 219.12).

During the plan revision process, a set of alternative scenarios was developed to compare and contrast the revised plan and its alternatives in terms of their ability to achieve desired conditions (DCs).

Eight general assumptions were common to all analyses:

- Land management plan alternatives provide programmatic frameworks for future site-specific actions.
- Land management plan alternatives do not have direct effects. They do not authorize or mandate any site-specific projects or activities (including ground-disturbing actions).
- Land management plan alternatives may have implications for, or longer term environmental consequences from, management on the Prescott NF under these programmatic frameworks.
- Law, policy, and regulations will be followed when planning or implementing site-specific projects and activities of a proposed alternative including implementation of best management practices as required by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.
- The plan decisions (i.e., desired conditions, objectives, standards, guidelines, management areas, suitability, monitoring) of a proposed alternative will be followed when planning or implementing site-specific projects and activities.
- Monitoring will occur to inform future land management decisions.
- Management activities that help ecosystems accommodate changes adaptively will improve ecosystem resiliency in the long term.
- The planning timeframe is 10 years; other timeframes may be analyzed to compare anticipated trends into the future.

The analysis of effects included the evaluation of potential wilderness and research natural areas; the eligibility of rivers for wild and scenic designation; the determination of suitability for recreation opportunities, livestock grazing, and timber production; the evaluation of movement toward vegetation and watershed desired conditions; the determination of species viability, the selection of management indicator species (MIS); the evaluation of movement toward desired conditions for recreation, scenery, and open space; and social and economic impacts. These analyses are further described in the sections that follow.

Evaluation of Potential Wilderness Areas

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) (P.L. 94-588) requires that all areas meeting minimum criteria as wilderness (i.e., roadless and undeveloped) be considered for recommendation for wilderness designation during plan revision. Recommended areas are those

which are capable of providing wilderness experiences and character, are available for recommendation in comparison to other values that exist in the area, and respond to the need for additional wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The wilderness evaluation followed the process as outlined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 70. This process consists of three steps: (1) identification of potential areas, (2) evaluation of potential areas, and (3) recommendation of potential areas.

Identification of Potential Areas

The minimum criteria for potential wilderness areas (PWAs) include:

- The area must be at least 5,000 acres in size or meet at least one of the following conditions:
 - o Can be preserved due to physical terrain and natural conditions.
 - o Self-contained ecosystems, such as an island, that can be effectively managed as a separate unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
 - o Adjacent to existing wilderness, primitive areas, Administration-endorsed wilderness, or potential wilderness in other Federal ownership, regardless of their size.
- The area must not contain forest roads (36 CFR 212.1) or other permanently authorized roads.

Twenty-nine areas were determined to meet these conditions. One area identified in the inventory, Hackberry PW-03-09-017, was not carried forward in the evaluation process on the Prescott National Forest because it is adjacent to the Hackberry PW-03-04-026 area on the Coconino National Forest and was included in their potential wilderness evaluation. Sycamore Canyon C PW-03-09-027 spans the boundary between the Prescott National Forest and Kaibab National Forest. The entire parcel was analyzed by the Prescott National Forest in this evaluation.

Evaluation of Potential Areas

The capability of an area as wilderness was identified using a scoring process specific to the Prescott NF that covered 15 criteria developed by the Southwestern Region Regional Office. As the PWAs were assessed, they were assigned a high, medium, or low rating based on a points system for each criterion. The overall capability rating for a PWA was based on the total number of points earned. A score of 50 or higher was needed to achieve an overall rating of high. Medium scores were between 43 and 49 points. Potential wilderness areas that had a low score, less than 43 out of 57 possible points, were determined to have insufficient wilderness character.

Eight of the 28 PWAs were not considered for further evaluation because they scored below the 43 point threshold needed to proceed to the availability and need assessments. All of the PWAs that scored more than 43 points were analyzed for both availability and need—there were no further eliminations during those stages of the process.

The evaluation of an area's availability as wilderness included a consideration for the opportunity/cost of wilderness recommendation to other resource uses in that area such as timber production, grazing, or mineral production.

The need for the area as wilderness was analyzed on a regional basis. Consideration was given to size, setting, location of existing wilderness, and unconfined recreation opportunities provided. Preference was given to landforms and ecosystems that are underrepresented in the region.

The potential effects of both wilderness designated and management as non-wilderness were documented for each area. Factors examined included the effects to the area's wilderness characteristics and values; the effects to other resources such as recreation, wildlife, and timber; and the economic and social effects.

Recommendation of Potential Wilderness Areas

Eight areas were recommended for wilderness designation in the revised plan (alternative E). Alternatives A and C did not recommend any potential wilderness areas for designation, alternative B recommended 8 potential wilderness areas, and alternative D recommended 16 potential wilderness areas (table 2 and figures 1 through 4).

Table 2. Potential Wilderness Evaluation

Potential Wilderness Areas	Number
Potential wilderness areas identified	29
Potential wilderness areas evaluated	28
Potential wilderness areas containing basic wilderness characteristics	20
Potential wilderness areas recommended for wilderness designation	
Alternatives A and C	0
Alternative B	8
Alternative D	16
Alternative E	8

Alternative B was developed in a collaborative fashion, incorporating input from the public and other stakeholders both internal and external. The potential wilderness areas recommended were selected to expand the existing wilderness areas and to establish a new wilderness opportunity in proximity to the communities of the Verde Valley.

The focus of alternative D was to increase the quantity and diversity of recreation opportunities on the Prescott NF, and the expansion of the wilderness base in alternative D did not come at the expense of any existing motorized recreation opportunities. Four potential wilderness areas were not recommended in this alternative for the following reasons:

Bald Mountain – Bald Mountain PWA currently contains about one and a half miles of motorized trail. Wilderness designation would require that this trail be closed to motorized use, thus representing an actual, not potential, loss of a motorized recreational opportunity.

Black Canyon – Wilderness designation for the Black Canyon PWA would preclude future development of mountain biking opportunities in a prime area adjacent to the towns and communities within Verde Valley.

Fritsche A – Wilderness designation for the Fritsche A PWA would limit future development of motorized recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the Paulden community. Current use includes off-highway vehicle use on area trails and for hunting access.

Pine Mountain A – Wilderness designation for the Pine Mountain A PWA, in conjunction with wilderness designation for Pine Mountain C, would result in private property being surrounded by wilderness. The existing private property and access road occurs within the boundaries for Pine Mountain A; therefore, it would be better to designate Pine Mountain C, north of Forest Road 68, and maintain Forest Road 68 for access to the area.

Alternative E was developed by the Prescott NF Leadership Team and incorporated input from the public and other stakeholders both internal and external. The potential wilderness areas recommended were selected to expand the existing wilderness areas and to minimize impacts to grazing permittees and the mountain bike community.

Documents that provide additional details on the potential wilderness evaluation:

- Prescott National Forest Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report (Forest Service, 2012)
- Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Wilderness Recommendations by Forest Plan Alternative (Forest Service, 2014)
- Forest Service Handbook 1919.12

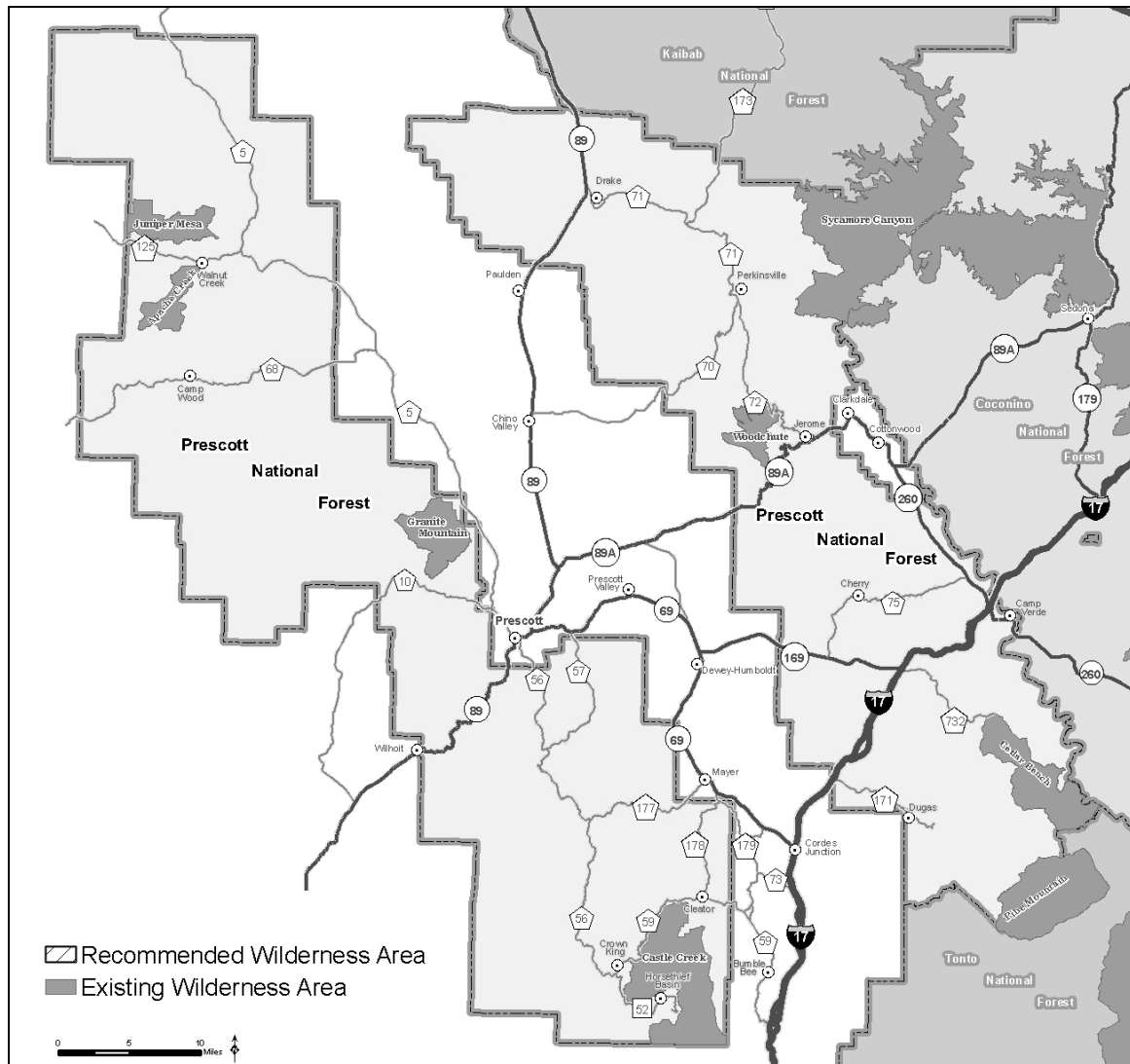


Figure 1. Recommended wilderness for alternatives A and C

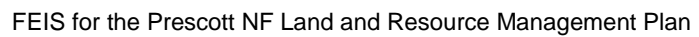


Figure 2. Recommended wilderness for alternative B

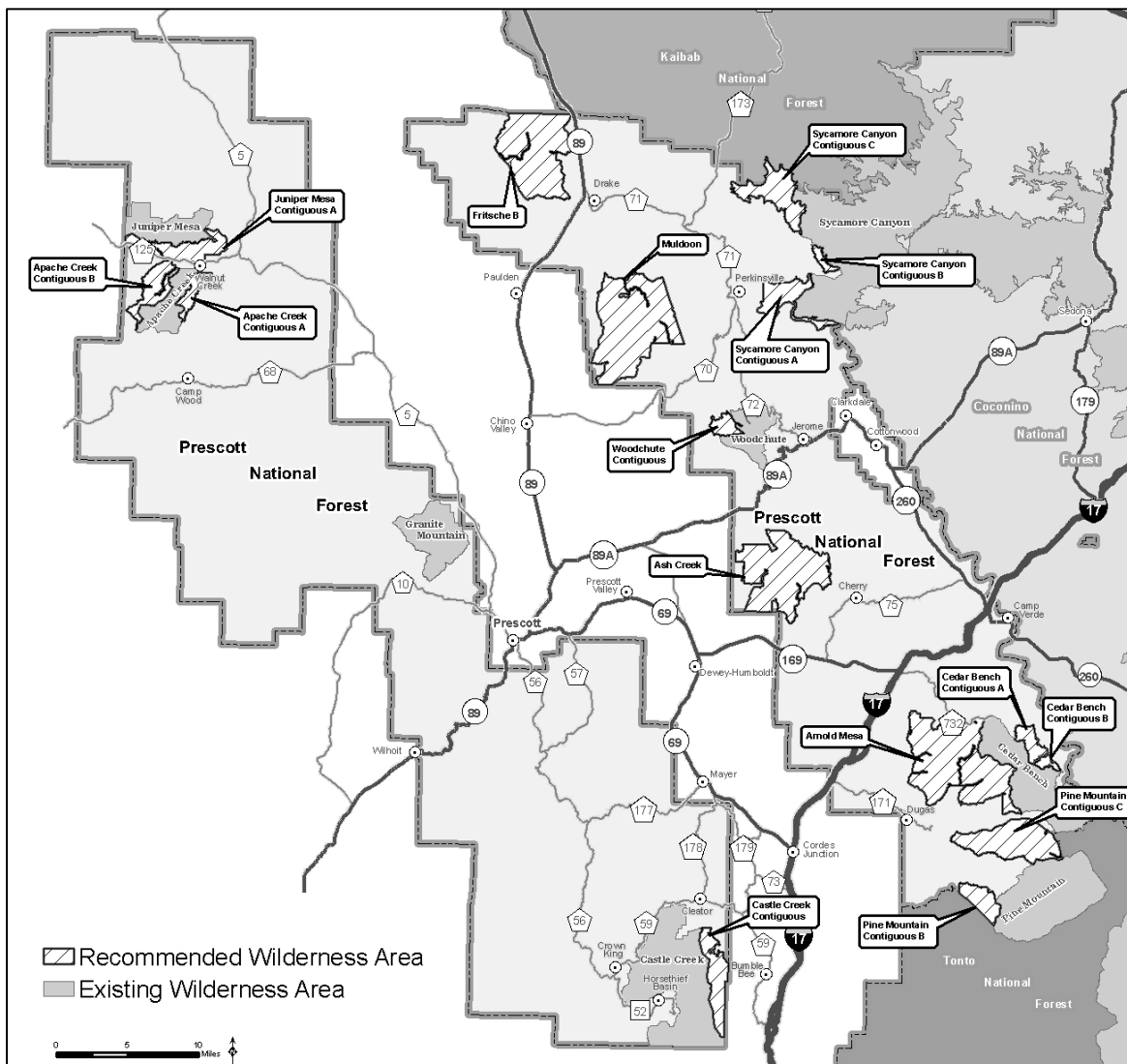


Figure 3. Recommended wilderness for alternative D

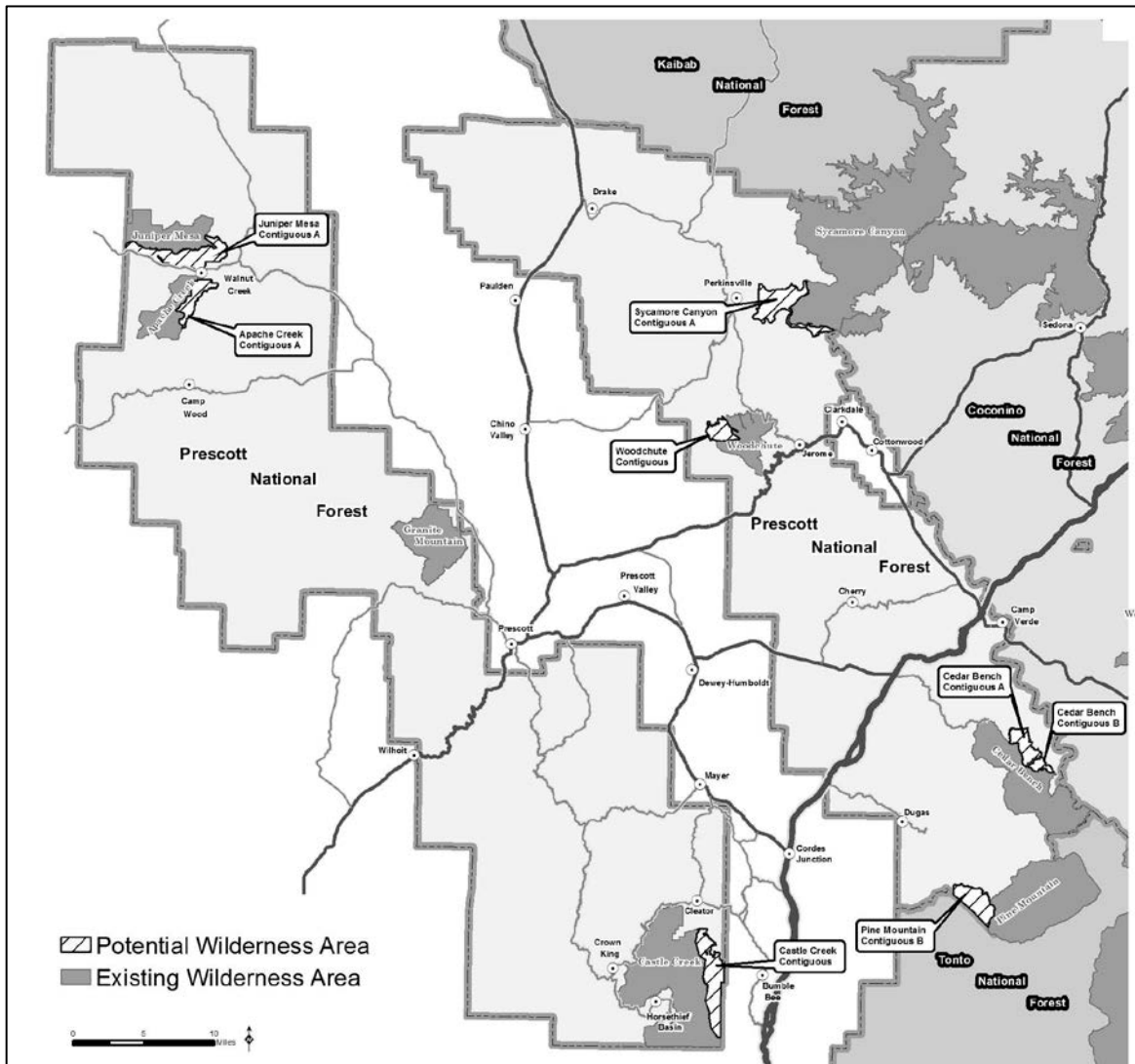


Figure 4. Recommended wilderness for alternative E

Evaluation of Potential Research Natural Areas

Research natural areas (RNAs) are areas that are set aside to create a spectrum of high quality natural communities that are part of a national network for research, education, and maintenance of biological diversity. The process to establish RNAs is documented in the Forest Service Manual 4063. During plan revision, national forests are to consider the need for, and identification of, RNAs. The potential research natural areas on the Prescott NF were evaluated in a 3-step process: (1) review existing information, (2) determine the quality of ecologically underrepresented areas, and (3) recommend areas as potential RNAs. These steps are discussed in further detail below.

Review existing information – Vegetative information specific to the Prescott NF was compared to a list of relatively rare potential natural vegetation types (PNVTs) and aquatic habitats in the Southwestern Region. This comparison was used to determine whether any areas on the Prescott NF were the same as those areas identified as underrepresented RNAs within the Southwestern Region. Six PNVTs and two aquatic habitats met the criteria.

Determine the quality of ecologically underrepresented areas – Each PNVT or aquatic habitat was analyzed to determine whether they met the eight conditions to qualify as a potential RNA. Examples of conditions included: the area represents a specific vegetation type or ecosystem, the area contributes to the preservation and maintenance of genetic diversity, and the area serves as a control for comparing results of manipulative research. One area, the Grapevine Botanical Area, met the conditions as a potential RNA.

Recommend areas as potential RNAs – After review and consideration of the material facts and relevant issues, the forest supervisor elected not to recommend the Grapevine Botanical Area for establishment as an RNA; however, the plan components for managing the Grapevine Botanical Area contained in 1987 plan amendment 10 (1997) were retained for all action alternatives.

Documents that provide additional details on evaluation of RNAs:

- Research Natural Area Process for Forest Plan Revision under the 1982 Planning Rule Provisions (Forest Service, 2009a)
- Environmental Assessment for Grapevine Springs Botanical Area Designation (Forest Service, 1997)
- Prescott National Forest Research Natural Area Evaluation Process Summary Report (Forest Service, 2010a)

Evaluation of Eligible Rivers for Wild and Scenic River Designation

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 sought to preserve the outstandingly remarkable values of selected rivers by retaining their free-flowing condition for the benefit of future generations. Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 section 81.2 states that the list of rivers eligible for wild, scenic, or recreation classification status should be reviewed during plan revision if changes in circumstances have occurred. A 3-step process is described in the Forest Service Handbook: (1)

determine eligibility, (2) classify segments, and (3) determine suitability to pursue congressional designation. Only the first two steps were completed for plan revision on the Prescott NF.

The upper Verde River was determined eligible for addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1982 as review showed that changes, such as reduction of amount of private land along the shorelines, road decommissioning, and declines in threatened and endangered fish populations had occurred (Forest Service, 1981).

A recent review (2010) conducted by an interdisciplinary team of specialists determined that eligibility of the upper Verde River for wild and scenic river designation was appropriate; however, the classification of segments needed to be revised. The interdisciplinary team divided the river into four segments using landmarks easily seen in the field.

Using field visits and available information, team members analyzed the following attributes: water resource development, shoreline development, accessibility, and water quality. They compared present circumstances on the river to the classification requirements from the Forest Service Handbook.

Previously, the full extent of the upper Verde River was classified as recreational; however, the updated classifications identified the following segments: 5.6 miles classified as wild, 25.4 miles classified as scenic, and 6.7 miles classified as recreational (table 3).

Table 3. Upper Verde River Wild and Scenic River eligibility

Classification	Miles
1982 Eligibility Classification	
Recreational	37.7 miles
2010 Eligibility Classification	
Wild	5.6 miles
Scenic	25.4 miles
Recreational	6.7 miles

Documents that provide additional details on eligible wild and scenic rivers:

- Verde River Wild and Scenic River Study Report and Environmental Impact Statement (Forest Service, 1981)
- Upper Verde River Eligibility Report Update for the National Wild and Scenic River System (Forest Service, 2010b)
- Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 80

Determination of Suitability for Recreation Opportunities

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) states that national forest plans shall provide for multiple use and sustained yield of products and services through management of

renewable surface resources to best meet the needs of the American people. Further, Section 6 of NFMA calls for identification of the suitability of lands for resource management.

The 1982 Planning Rule Provisions require the identification of lands suitable for various recreation opportunities (Sec. 219.21). Forest recreation specialists identified and listed the recreation opportunities (e.g., dispersed camping, motorized recreation) on the Prescott NF, and then identified the settings or areas (e.g., developed recreation facilities, wilderness) where these opportunities may or may not take place.

An area or setting is deemed suitable if it is appropriate for the activity, regardless of whether the opportunity exists. This does not mean that the activity will occur over the entire area. National Forest System lands are generally suitable for a variety of uses, including recreation, unless restricted by Presidential, congressional, or administrative constraints.

A setting is not suitable if it is not appropriate for the activity or the activity is not allowed by law, regulation, or policy within the area. Areas that are permitted for other resource use, such as communication sites, electric substations, mining operations, or energy development, are not suitable for recreation; these settings are also not listed in the suitability matrix.

The results of the suitability analysis are displayed in the recreation suitability matrix (table 4).

Documents that provide additional details on recreation suitability:

- PNF Recreation Suitability Matrix (Forest Service, 2011c)

Table 4. Recreation Suitability Matrix

		Activities					
		Developed Recreation	Dispersed Camping	Nonmotorized Dispersed Recreation	Motorized Recreation	Water Based Recreation	Education/ Interpretation
		– activities that are dependent upon facilities provided by the Forest Service. Examples include developed camping, picnicking, or group gatherings.	– camping outside of a developed campground, including designated dispersed camping, dispersed car camping, and back-country camping.	– activities which are not dependent upon developed facilities or motorized equipment, including hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, equestrian use, or mountain biking.	– the operation of motorized vehicles such as all-terrain vehicles, off-highway vehicles, or motorcycles for recreation as opposed to transportation.	– on water and water adjacent activities such as rafting, tubing, kayaking, boating, swimming, wading, and fishing. Includes both motorized and nonmotorized use.	– recreation based on the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Ranges from formal displays and programs to outdoor classrooms, interpretive field trips, and citizen-scientist projects.
Settings	Developed Recreation Facilities	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
	Heritage Interpretive Area	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Wilderness ¹	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable for non-mechanized only	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
	Wild and Scenic River	Suitable ²	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
	Grapevine Botanical Area	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
	Nonmotorized Forest System Trails	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Motorized Forest System Trails	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable where allowed	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Designated OHV Area	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Administrative Facilities	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable

¹ Recreation suitability in recommended wilderness is at the discretion of the forest supervisor.

² Developed recreation activities are suitable in river segment corridors classified as “recreational.”

Determination of Suitability for Livestock Grazing

Procedures in the 1982 Planning Rule (Section 219.20) require that the capability and suitability for producing forage for grazing animals on National Forest System lands be determined during forest planning. Capability depends upon conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils, and geology. Suitability considers the effects of applying certain resource management practices to a particular area of land including relevant social, economic, and ecological factors.

Capability

Capability is the potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services, or allow resource uses under an assumed set of management practices at a given level of management intensity.

Capable grazing lands refer to the sum of all lands classified as having full or potential grazing capability for domestic livestock. A large portion of the capability determination is based upon factors such as landform, geology, slope, and climate. These have not changed significantly since the previous evaluation undertaken for the 1987 plan. Current drought conditions and trends have not been shown to be outside of historical norms for the Southwest.

Terrestrial ecosystem survey (TES) information, circa 2000, is now used during grazing allotment analysis. For this analysis, three measures are used to determine capability: (1) forage productivity, (2) inherently unstable soils, and (3) slopes steeper than 60 percent.

Forage productivity is taken from TES map unit classifications across the Prescott NF using corporate geographic information system (GIS) data. Inherently unstable soils are described for appropriate map units in TES documentation. The inherently unstable classification is displayed under landscape features and is an interpretation based on climate, soils, rock features, and terrain form. It indicates conditions where annual soil renewability is less than soil loss under natural conditions described in “Potential Plant Community” in the TES document. Therefore, retention of vegetative cover may not slow erosion or soil creep processes even with management intervention, such as seeding. The slope values were determined from U.S. Geological Survey information. Due to the different data sources, there is some overlap between the inherently unstable soil acreage and the acreage of slopes greater than 60 percent. This overlap was determined to be within the margin of error for calculating total acreages.

Lands capable of producing forage for grazing animals totaled 1,009,821 acres (table 5).

Table 5. Grazing capability

Category	Acres
Prescott NF lands	1,267,515 acres
Forage productivity less than 100 pounds per acre-year	-127,508 acres
Soils that are Inherently unstable	-114,786 acres
Slopes steeper than 60 percent	-15,400 acres
Generally Capable Lands	1,009,821 acres

Suitability

Suitability is the appropriateness of applying certain resource management practices to a particular area of land as determined by an analysis of the economic and environmental consequences and the alternative uses foregone. A unit of land may be suitable for a variety of individual or combined management practices. Land suitable for grazing is that which is accessible to livestock or wildlife, can be grazed on a sustained yield basis without damage to long term productivity, and is compatible with desired conditions.

The area capable of producing forage for grazing animals was the starting point for determining current range suitability. This area was 1,009,821 acres.

The 1987 plan identified Management Area 7 as unsuitable for livestock grazing; it consisted of three recreation areas. In addition, the Prescott Municipal watershed (Goldwater Lake) was excluded from grazing based on a 1924 agreement. Lane Mountain watershed was also excluded, beginning in 1975. These areas totaled 39,688. Desired conditions for these areas include management for their original purpose; thus, they will continue to be unsuitable for livestock grazing.

The planning team identified additional areas which were excluded from livestock grazing, including those excluded by NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decisions and portions of allotments that were excluded from grazing activity after 1987. Since inception of the 1987 plan, 50 allotments on the Prescott NF have received site-specific environmental review and several areas were excluded from grazing in project-level decisions. Large, contiguous areas (at least 1,000 acres) that were excluded in site-specific decisions were deemed to be not suitable for livestock grazing for this suitability analysis. These areas totaled 57,055 acres.

Suitable grazing lands were determined to be 913,078 acres (table 6). This figure was calculated by taking the capable acres (1,009,821) and subtracting the unsuitable areas identified in the 1987 plan (39,688) and the sum acres of the recent grazing exclusions (57,055); it was applied to all alternatives (A, B, C, D, and E).

Table 6. Grazing suitability

Category	Acres
Lands generally capable for livestock grazing	1,009,821 acres
Areas identified as unsuitable in the 1987 plan	-39,688 acres
Allotments where a portion of acreage have been excluded since the 1987 plan was approved	-57,055 acres
Lands suitable for producing forage for grazing animals, used in forest plan revision alternatives A, B, C, D, and E	913,078 acres

Documents that provide additional details on determining the capability and suitability of livestock grazing:

- Prescott National Forest Determination of Livestock Grazing Capability and Suitability Report (Forest Service, 2011d)

- Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey of the Prescott National Forest (Robertson et al., 2000)

Determination of Suitability for Timber Production

The timber production objective is defined as growing, tending, harvesting, and regenerating crops of trees on a regulated basis to produce logs or other products for industrial or consumer use (1982 Planning Rule Provisions Section 219.16). For the purposes of forest planning, timber production does not include firewood or harvests from unsuitable lands. NFMA requires the agency to determine the suitability of National Forest System lands for timber production and has specific requirements for timber suitability analysis in land management plans. The Agency makes a distinction between timber harvest as a resource use (i.e., timber production) and timber harvest as a management tool to achieve desired conditions.

These assumptions were used for the timber suitability analysis:

- A minimum 10 percent canopy cover requirement was used to identify areas as being forested for the GIS midscale mapping dataset.
- Piñon-juniper vegetation types were not considered to be forested, regardless of canopy cover, per direction from the Southwestern Region Regional Office.
- Timber production is contrary to desired conditions within areas recommended for wilderness designation. Areas recommended for wilderness designation for each alternative were excluded from the suitable timber base.
- Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers (PACs) and areas of steep ground (helicopter/cable ground) outside of PACs were removed from the suitable timber base.
- Different economic thresholds were used for the different alternatives to determine where it was economically efficient to carry out timber production; alternatives A and C had lower economic thresholds than alternatives B, D, and E. Therefore, some tentatively suitable areas were removed from the suitable timber base in alternatives B, D, and E, but there were no areas removed from the suitable base in alternatives A and C.

Tentatively Suitable Timber Lands

The general analysis process first identified lands tentatively suitable for timber production. The first set of criteria for unsuitable lands included:

- Lands that cannot grow trees.
- Lands where current timber harvest technology would cause permanent damage to the natural environment.
- Lands where there is uncertainty that the area can be successfully reforested after harvest.
- Lands that are excluded from harvest by law, by the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service.
- Lands where trees are present, but commercial timber harvest is not economically possible (e.g., lands with volume growth less than 20 cubic feet per acre, lands with no commercial tree species present).

Forest lands that remain after this screening are termed “Lands tentatively suitable for timber production,” and this classification does not vary by forest plan alternative. Based on this

suitability analysis, 60,839 acres were identified as tentatively suitable for timber production (table 7). This figure serves as the basis for the final timber suitability calculations.

Table 7. Acres tentatively suitable for timber production

total NFS Lands (Prescott National Forest)	1,255,804 acres
Non-forest land	1,182,829 acres
Lands withdrawn from timber production	12,136 acres
Lands where irreversible resource damage likely	0 acres
Lands where adequate restocking not assured	0 acres
Lands Tentatively Suitable for Timber Production	60,839 acres

Lands Suitable for Timber Production

The final calculation of lands suitable for timber production involves subtracting the acreage not appropriate for timber production from the tentatively suitable acreage. The categories of lands not appropriate for timber production include:

- Recommended wilderness areas included in each alternative
- Areas where plan components limit timber harvest (acreages were identified by alternative and reflected lands identified as critical to Mexican spotted owls)
- Lands that were not considered economically efficient to carry out timber production (e.g., areas on steep slopes or with blocked access due to recommended wilderness areas).

Table 8. Acres not appropriate for timber production by alternative

	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Lands where management area prescriptions preclude timber production	0	438	0	1,124	25
Lands where management objectives limit timber harvest	16,426	16,426	16,426	16,426	16,426
Lands that are not economically cost efficient	0	5,513	0	5,226	5,513
Lands not appropriate for timber production	16,426	22,377	16,426	22,776	21,964

Lands where management area prescriptions preclude timber production would include tentatively suitable land within any potential wilderness area recommended for designation.

On the Prescott NF, lands where management objectives limit timber harvest include areas that have been designated for protection of the Mexican spotted owl (MSO). These 16,426 protected acres are the same across alternatives.

An economic analysis was completed according to direction from the Southwestern Region Regional Office in which the tentatively suitable lands were divided into three broad categories: (1) roaded tractor operable ground, (2) non-roaded tractor operable ground, and (3) and helicopter/cable ground. Steep areas requiring helicopter logging had already been removed from

the tentatively suitable base. The remaining acres were evaluated according to the costs and revenues of logging.

Suitable timber lands ranged from 38,063 acres to 44,413 acres across alternatives (table 9).

Table 9. Acres suitable for timber production by alternative

	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Lands tentatively suitable for timber production	60,839	60,839	60,839	60,839	60,839
Lands not appropriate for timber production	16,426	22,377	16,426	22,776	21,964
Lands suitable for timber production	44,413	38,462	44,413	38,063	38,875
Lands not suitable for timber production	1,211,391	1,217,342	1,211,391	1,217,741	1,216,929

Long term Sustained Yield Capacity

The long term sustained yield capacity (LTSYC) is defined as the highest uniform yield of wood that lands being managed for timber production may sustain under specified management intensity and consistent with multiple use objectives. Most forest lands are not in a desired condition, so planners use mathematical models to estimate sustainable harvest levels. Short term harvest levels on lands where timber production is a regular, predictable activity would tend to steadily increase or decrease until those lands are at a desired condition and then remain steady around that level.

The LTSYC for the Prescott NF was calculated using modeling and methodology developed by the Southwestern Region Regional Office. The methodology is discussed further in Youtz and Vandendriesche (2011).

LTSYC calculations for ponderosa pine and its subtypes were based upon uneven-aged forest management systems. The uneven-aged management strategy assumed the following:

- A group selection cutting method.
- A 30-year cutting cycle with six age classes, and where group or patch sizes increase as forested conditions become progressively more mesic (or moist).

The data sources used in calculating LTSYC were Southwestern Region Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot data (sorted by PNVT and site index) and a regionally calibrated Forest Vegetation Simulator. Based on this data, the annual volumes per acre shown in table 10 would be produced within Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak and Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak PNVTs.

Table 10. Annual volume production

PNVT	Site Index	Volume
Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak	High Site Index	17.8 CCF ¹ acre/year
	Low Site Index	15.8 CCF acre/year
Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak	High Site Index	23.7 CCF acre/year
	Low Site Index	15.5 CCF acre/year

¹ The unit of measure is hundred cubic feet (ccf).

The LTSYC is based on productivity of the land deemed suitable for timber production, and since the suitable acreage varies by alternative, the LTSYC does also. The equation used to calculate the LTSYC is the timber volume produced per acre per year, multiplied by the suitable timber production acres. For alternatives A and C, LTSYC is 69,680 CCF per decade. For alternative B, LTSYC is 60,343 CCF per decade. For alternative D, LTSYC is 59,706 CCF per decade. For alternative E, LTSYC is 60,996 CCF per decade.

Allowable Sale Quantity

The allowable sale quantity (AQS) is equal to or less than the amount of timber that could be harvested annually under the LTSYC. For the first decade, it is based on the sale schedule established in the forest plan, and it is projected for future periods. The ASQ should be set high enough to accommodate a base sale schedule (BSS) that reflects a constant or increasing level of planned timber sale offerings to be consistent with the principle of non-declining flow.

Objective 5 in the revised plan is based on a projected annual average harvest of 800 acres for a 10-year period. This objective did not vary across the action alternatives (B, C, D, and E); therefore, all the action alternatives share the same ASQ.

Timber volumes that would be produced from activities included in Objective 5 were calculated for the 10-year period. The estimate for future volumes was based on past volumes that were produced within ponderosa pine-evergreen oak (PPE) and ponderosa pine-Gambel oak (PPO) since those are the only two vegetation types where there are acres suitable for timber harvest. Although the amount of proposed harvest on suitable lands is the same across the action alternatives, the amount of proposed tree thinning and removal on lands that are not suitable for timber production (e.g., the piñon-juniper PNVTs) varies considerably among alternatives.

The estimate for ASQ under alternative A is 23,385 CCF, and the estimate for ASQ under alternatives B, C, D, and E is 40,447 CCF. Table 11 below shows the breakdown by PNVT and product type.

Table 11. Allowable sale quantity by alternative

PNVT	Alternative A			Alternatives B, C, D, & E		
	Pulp ccf	Saw ccf	Total ccf	Pulp ccf	Saw ccf	Total ccf
Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak PNVT	3,759	13,033	16,792	4,987	13,569	18,556
Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak PNVT	1,163	5,430	6,593	5,613	16,278	21,891
Totals	4,922	18,463	23,385	10,600	29,847	40,447

Documents that provide additional details on timber suitability, LTSYC, and ASQ:

- Prescott National Forest Timber Suitability, Long term Sustained Yield Capacity, and Allowable Sale Quantity Report (Forest Service, 2011e)
- PNF 2011 Timber Suitability Calculations.xlsx (Spreadsheet)
- National Forest Planning and Sustained Yield of the Timber Resource Long term Sustained-Yield Calculations for Forest Land and Resource Management Planning (Youtz and Vandendriesche, 2011)

Terrestrial Ecosystem Sustainability Analysis

The first step in evaluating the sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems of the Prescott NF, was to classify the landscape into potential natural vegetation types (PNVTs) as shown in table 12.

PNVTs are coarse-scale groupings of ecosystem types that share similar geography, vegetation, and historic ecosystem disturbances such as fire, drought, and grazing by native species. PNVTs represent the vegetation type and characteristics that would occur when natural disturbance regimes and biological processes prevail on the landscape. It is important not to confuse PNVTs with existing vegetation types.

The PNVT classifications were developed from data available in the “Terrestrial Ecosystem Unit Inventory of the Prescott National Forest” (Robertson et al., 2000) and from information on vegetation dynamics and natural variability compiled by The Nature Conservancy¹ and the Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools Project² (commonly called LANDFIRE).

Table 12. Potential natural vegetation types (PNVTs) of the Prescott NF

PNVT Name	Acres	Percent
Semi-Desert Grassland	125,712	10
Great Basin Grassland	38,389	3
Juniper Grassland	137,274	11

¹ www.azconservation.org/downloads/category/southwest_regional/

² www.landfire.gov

PNVT Name	Acres	Percent
Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub	463,296	37
Interior Chaparral	315,445	25
Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak	63,539	5
Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak	49,052	4
Piñon-Juniper Woodland	36,263	3
Desert Communities	5,919	< 1
Riparian Gallery Forest	12,439	1
Total	1,247,328	100

The status or condition of PNVTs can be evaluated by describing their unique ecosystem characteristics, which consist of a series of “states” and “transitions.” States describe the life forms, composition, age or size, and relative density of the vegetation at different life stages. Transitions are disturbance events that modify the existing vegetation in various ways based on their magnitude, frequency, and extent. Transitions also include biological processes such as growth, development, and death. A “states and transitions” framework allows for simulating and testing vegetation dynamics using computerized models.

The individual vegetation characteristics that were evaluated included species composition, structure (vegetation states) of the dominant life forms (grass, shrub, and tree), and the disturbance regimes that define each PNVT.

This information was used to compare current conditions to descriptions of the historical range of variability (HRV). The HRV characterizes the change in condition, over time and space, of the major vegetation types found in the Southwest. It also describes the ecological processes that shape those types, enabling land managers and the public to understand these drivers of change.

Knowledge of the historical range of variability in these PNVTs allowed us to draw inferences about ecological sustainability and to evaluate the link between current vegetation conditions, past and present management practices, and climatic variability.

For example, the presence of a large number of exotic species in grasslands and riparian communities is a clear indicator that those communities are outside their HRV and, therefore, a potential threat to ecological sustainability of the ecosystem. The encroachment and establishment of woody species into grasslands is another indication that these communities may be outside their HRV. Ecosystem processes were also evaluated within the framework of the HRV, including the disturbance patterns resulting from fire, drought and insects, wind events, and flooding.

PNVT descriptions of the HRV³ were used to represent the reference conditions for analysis, and existing mid-scale vegetation mapping⁴ was used to represent the current conditions.

Desired Conditions Similarity Index Value

A desired conditions similarity index value was calculated for each PNVT representing the relative similarity between the current vegetative conditions and the desired vegetative conditions. Similarity index values are measured on a scale of 1 to 100 with 100 representing maximum similarity. The concept parallels the ecological condition class (ECC) values computed for the “Prescott National Forest Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b), where relative departure was also expressed on a scale of 1 to 100. Departure values were based on a comparison of reference conditions to current conditions. The similarity index is based on a comparison of current conditions to desired conditions. Similarity and departure share an inverse relationship. In other words, a PNVT that exhibits a high similarity to desired conditions would inversely exhibit a low departure from reference conditions.

Similarity Index Value Calculation

Table 13 below displays the PNVT states (e.g., A, B, C, D) and class proportions (percentages) for both current and desired conditions for the Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak PNVT, observed on the Prescott NF.

To calculate similarity index values: For each vegetation state, the lesser value (current proportion versus desired proportion) is recorded and then summed across vegetation states for a total as shown in underlined text on the right side of the table. Values of 1 to 33 = low similarity; 34 to 66 = moderate similarity; and 67 to 99 = high similarity to desired proportions/conditions. The index value represents the degree of similarity to desired conditions for a given modeled timeframe.

Table 13. PNVT states and class proportions

VDDT	PNVT State/Class Proportions:						Desired Conditions	
Results	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Index Value & Label
Desired	4	3	24	60	4	5		
Current	12	47	1	2	35	3		
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>17</u> Low
Desired	4	3	24	60	4	5		
YR 10	6	34	6	18	30	6		

³ PNVT descriptions of characteristic are from two sources: The Nature Conservancy (Schussman and Smith, 2006a and 2006b) and the LANDFIRE Project (LANDFIRE, 2007). A crosswalk was developed to link PNVT descriptions with map units of the “Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory of the Prescott National Forest” (Robertson et al., 2000).

⁴ Mid-scale vegetation mapping was conducted in 2005 and 2006 using satellite data and is mapped at the scale of 1:100,000. The map contains geospatial polygons with characteristics of life form (tree, shrub, grass, and forbs), size class (for trees and shrubs), and canopy cover.

	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>40</u>	Moderate
Desired	4	3	24	60	4	5			
YR20	4	27	6	24	29	10			
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>46</u>	Moderate
Desired	4	3	24	60	4	5			
YR 40	2	22	6	28	27	15			
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>50</u>	Moderate
Desired	4	3	24	60	4	5			
YR 80	2	21	5	27	28	17			
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>48</u>	Moderate

PNVT States

The figures on the following pages display the current and desired future conditions for each of the 10 PNVTs at the landscape scale. Each PNVT is described by a unique set of states and the proportional difference between current and desired conditions can be discerned. This information provides a set of baseline conditions useful for measuring progress toward desired conditions over time.

Semi-Desert Grassland

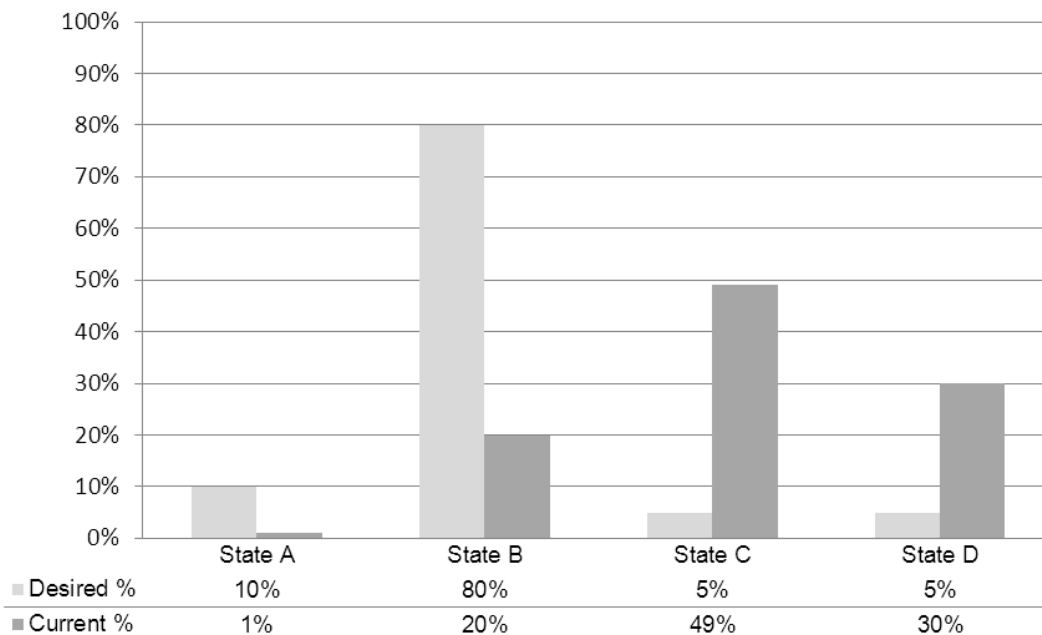


Figure 5. Semi-Desert Grassland

Semi-Desert Grassland PNVT Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Herbaceous vegetation regeneration, recently burned, sparsely vegetated; with < 10 percent tree or shrub canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, SVG.
- State B – Perennial herbaceous vegetation, with < 10 percent tree or shrub canopy cover; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: GFB.
- State C – Perennial herbaceous vegetation with shrubs, seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.), small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; late development; not part of historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: SHO, SSO, SMO.
- State D – Shrubs, seedling and sapling, small, medium size (>20" dia.) trees with closed (\geq 30 percent) canopy cover, and large to very large size trees with open canopy cover with perennial herbaceous vegetation, mid development; not part of historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: SHC, SSC, SMC, VOS.

The Semi-Desert Grassland PNVT exhibits a low similarity (31 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were developed by the Prescott NF planning team, led by the forest planning ecologist.

Great Basin Grassland

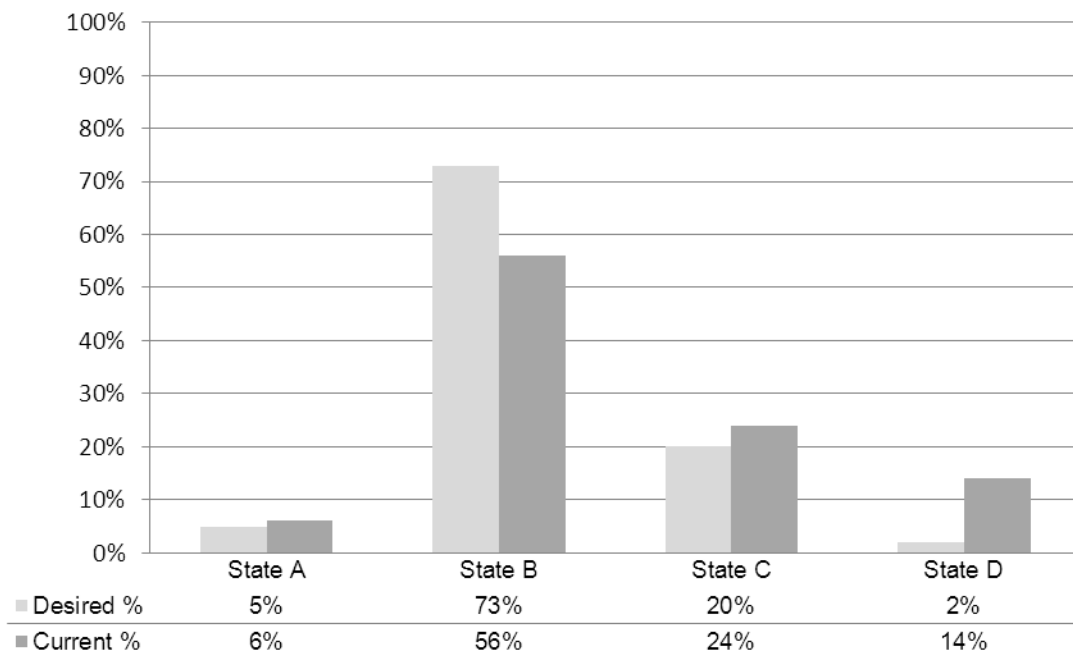


Figure 6. Great Basin Grassland

Great Basin Grassland PNVT Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Herbaceous vegetation regeneration, recently burned, sparsely vegetated; with < 10 percent tree or shrub canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, SVG.
- State B – Open perennial herbaceous vegetation, with < 10 percent tree or shrub canopy cover; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: GFB.
- State C – Perennial herbaceous vegetation with shrubs, seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.), small size (5–9.9" dia.), and medium size (10–19.9" dia.) trees with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: SHO, SSO, SMO, MOS.
- State D – Shrubs, seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.), small size (5–9.9" dia.), and medium size (10–19.9" dia.) trees with closed (\geq 30 percent) canopy cover: mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: SHC, SSC, SMC, MCS.

The Great Basin Grassland PNVT exhibits a high similarity (83 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were developed by the Prescott NF planning team, led by the forest planning ecologist.

Juniper Grassland

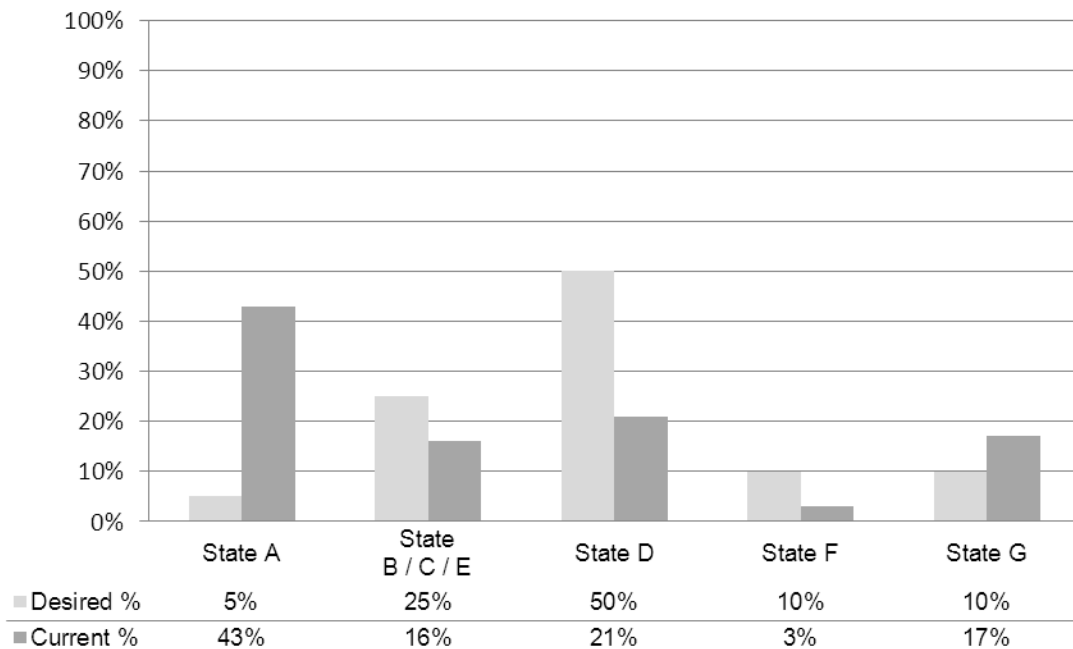


Figure 7. Juniper Grassland

Juniper Grassland PNVV Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Recently burned, grass, forb, and shrub types with < 10 percent tree canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, GFB, SHR.
- State B – Seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.) trees with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSO.
- State C – Small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. The current and desired proportion of state C is included in state B. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMO.
- State D – Medium and large to very large size (≥ 10 " dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVO.
- State E – Seedling and sapling size trees with closed (≥ 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. The current and desired proportion of state E is included in state B. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSC.
- State F – Small size trees, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMC.
- State G – Medium and large to very large size trees, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVC

The Juniper Grassland PNVV exhibits a moderate similarity (55 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub

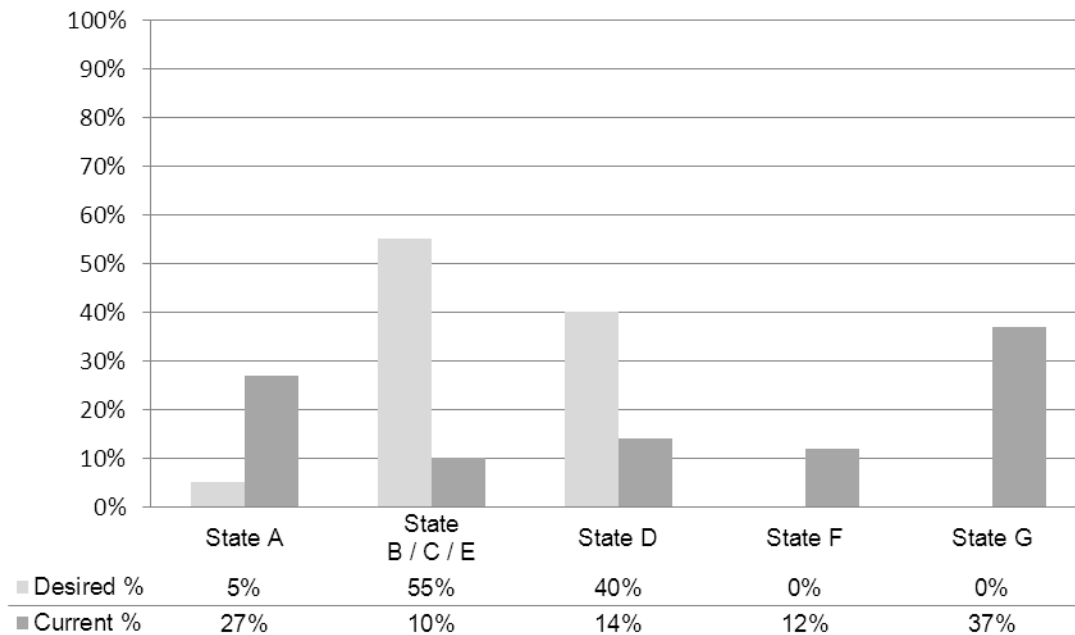


Figure 8. Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub

Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub PNVT Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Recently burned, grass, forb, and shrub types with < 10 percent tree canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, GFB, SHR.
- State B – Seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.) trees with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSO.
- State C – Small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. The current and desired proportion of state C is included in state B. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMO.
- State D – Medium and large to very large size (≥ 10 " dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVO.
- State E – Seedling and sapling size trees with closed (≥ 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. The current and desired proportion of state E is included in state B. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSC.
- State F – Small size trees, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMC.
- State G – Medium and large to very large size trees, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVC.

The Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub PNVT exhibits a low similarity (29 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

Piñon-Juniper Woodland

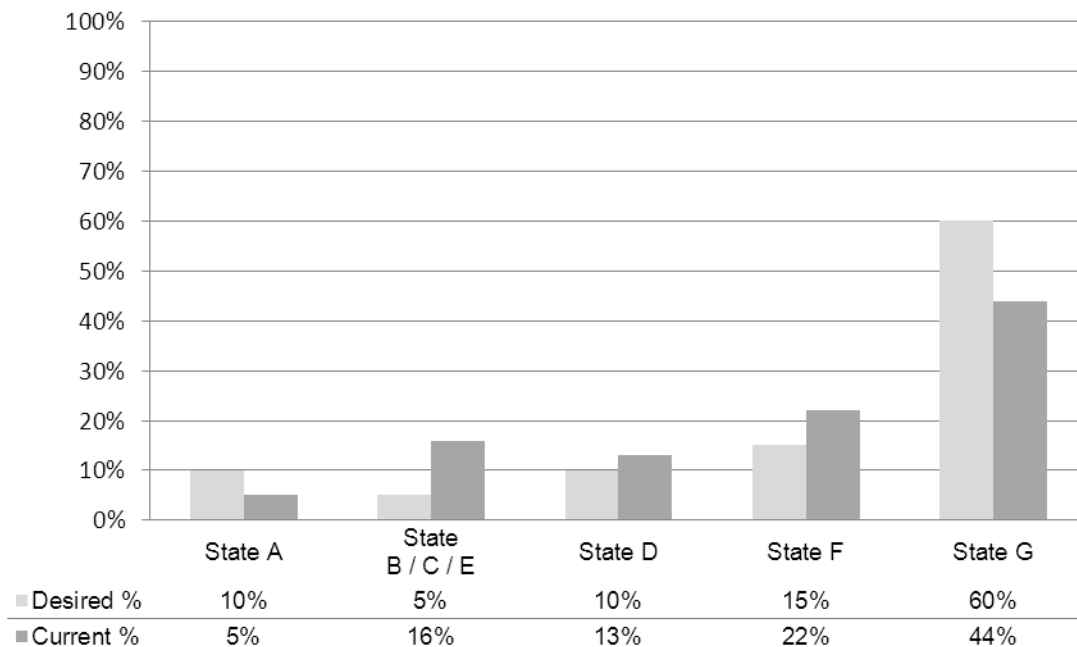


Figure 9. Piñon-Juniper Woodland

Piñon-Juniper Woodland PNVt Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Recently burned, grass, forb, and shrub types with < 10 percent tree canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, GFB, SHR.
- State B – Seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.) trees with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSO.
- State C – Small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. The current and desired proportion of state C is included in state B. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMO.
- State D – Medium and large to very large size (≥ 10 " dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVO.
- State E – Seedling and sapling size trees with closed (≥ 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. The current and desired proportion of state E is included in state B. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSC.
- State F – Small size trees, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMC.
- State G – Medium and large to very large size trees, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVC.

The Piñon-Juniper Woodland PNVt exhibits a high similarity (79 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

Interior Chaparral

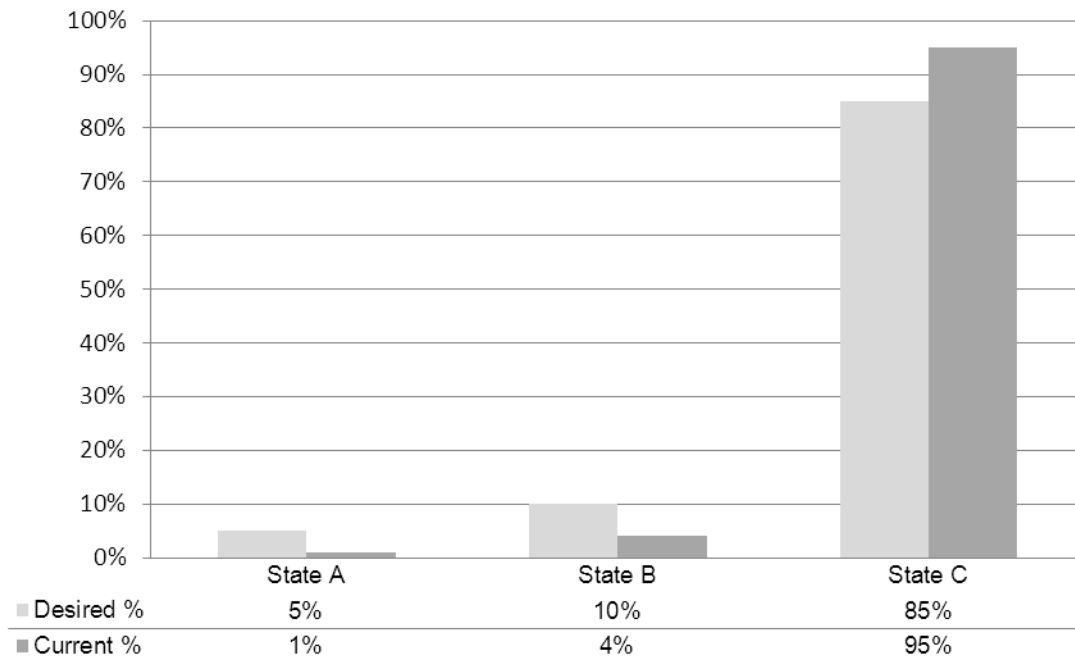


Figure 10. Interior Chaparral

Interior Chaparral PNVV Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Herbaceous vegetation regeneration, recently burned, sparsely vegetated; with < 10 percent shrub or tree canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, SVG, GFB.
- State B – Open perennial herbaceous vegetation, with shrubs, seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.) and small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees with open (<30 percent) canopy cover; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SHO, SSO, SMO.
- State C – Shrubs, seedling and sapling, small, and medium size (10–19.9" dia.) trees with closed (≥ 30 percent) canopy cover with no herbaceous vegetation understory; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SHC, SSC, SMC, MVC.

The Interior Chaparral PNVV exhibits a high similarity (90 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were developed by the Prescott NF planning team, led by the forest planning ecologist.

Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak

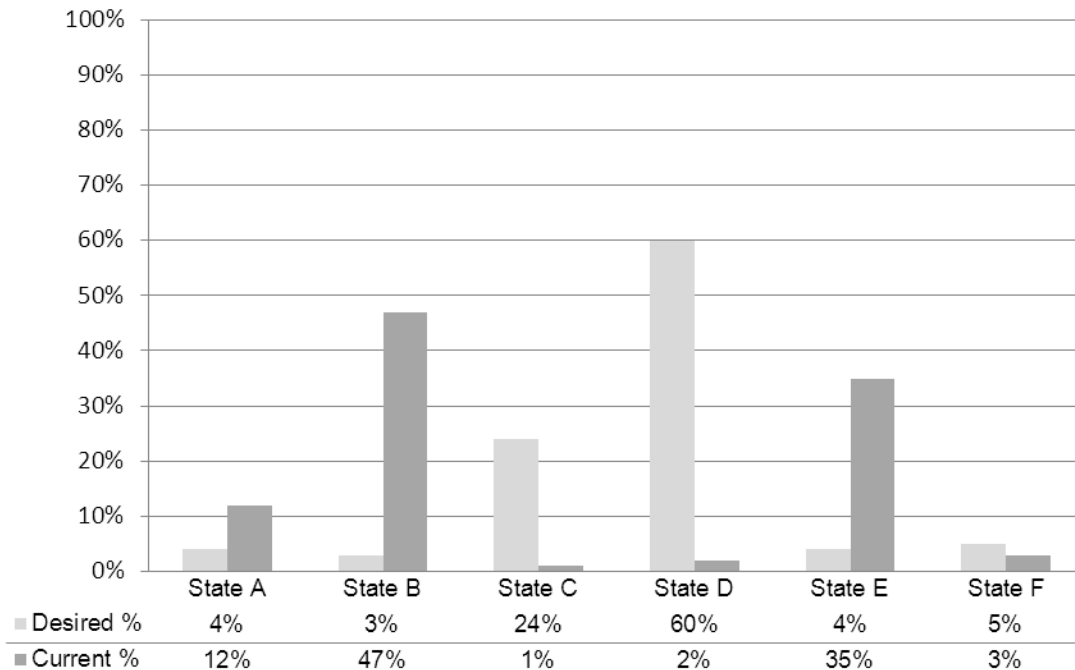


Figure 11. Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak

Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak PNVT Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Recently burned, grass, forb, and shrub types with < 10 percent tree canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, SVG, GFB.
- State B – Small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees, with closed (≥ 30 percent) cover; all tree types; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMC.
- State C – Small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMO.
- State D – Medium and large to very large size (≥ 10 " dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVO.
- State E – Medium and large to very large size (≥ 10 " dia.) trees, with closed (≥ 30 percent) cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MVC.
- State F – Resprouter dominated seedling and sapling size trees with closed (≥ 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSA.

The Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak PNVT exhibits a low similarity (24 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak

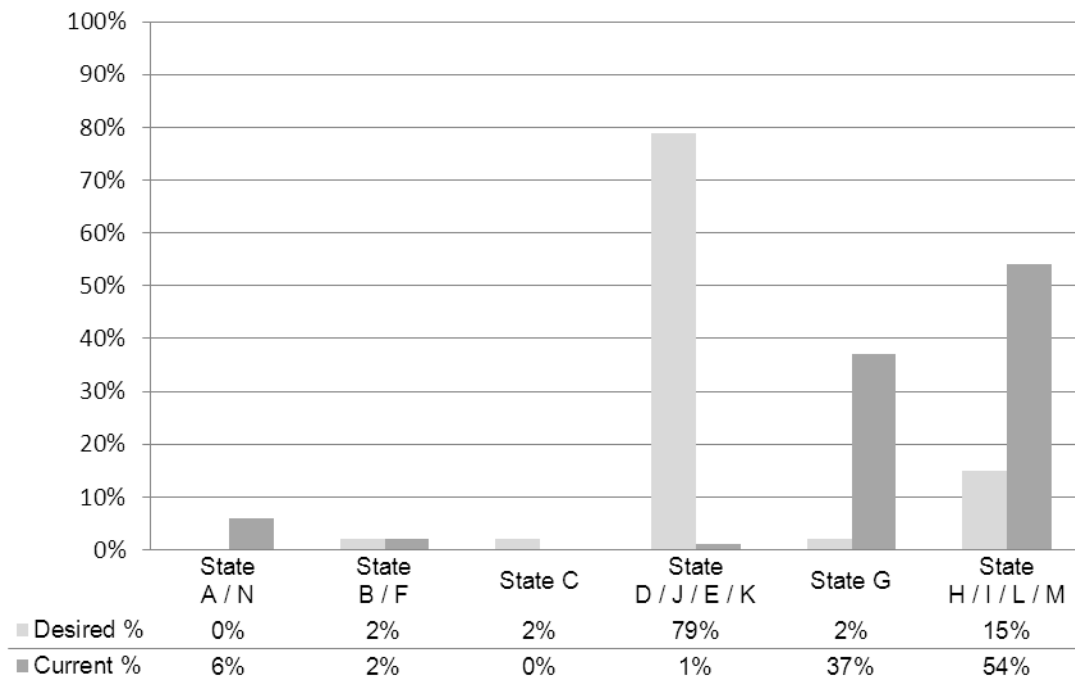


Figure 12. Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak

Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak PNVT Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Recently burned, grass, forb, and shrub types with < 10 percent tree canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: GFB, SHR.
- State B – Seedling and sapling size (< 5" dia.) trees with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSO.
- State C – Small size (5–9.9" dia.) trees, with open canopy cover; all tree types; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMO.
- State D – Medium size (10–19.9" dia.) trees, single storied, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MOS.
- State E – Large to very large size (≥ 20" dia.) trees, single storied, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: VOS.
- State F – Seedling and sapling size trees with closed (≥ 30 percent) canopy cover; all tree types; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SSC.
- State G – Small size trees, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; mid development; not part of the historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMC.
- State H – Medium size trees, single storied, with closed canopy cover; all shade tree types; late development; not part of historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: MCS.

- State I – Large to very large size trees, single storied, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; late development; not part of historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: VCS.
- State J – Medium size trees, multistoried, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. This state does not currently exist on the Prescott NF. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MOM.
- State K – Large to very large size trees, multistoried, with open canopy cover; all tree types; late development. This state does not currently exist on the Prescott NF. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: VOM.
- State L – Medium size trees, multistoried, with closed canopy cover; all tree types; late development; not part of historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. This state does not currently exist on the Prescott NF. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: MCM.
- State M – Large to very large size trees, multistoried, with closed canopy cover; tree types; late development; not part of historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. This state does not currently exist on the Prescott NF. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: VCM.
- State N – Recently burned, grass, forb, and shrub types with < 10 percent tree canopy cover; uncharacteristic early development due to fire; not part of historic conditions, found on contemporary landscapes only. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: GFB, SHR.

The Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak PNVT exhibits a low similarity (20 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

Desert Communities

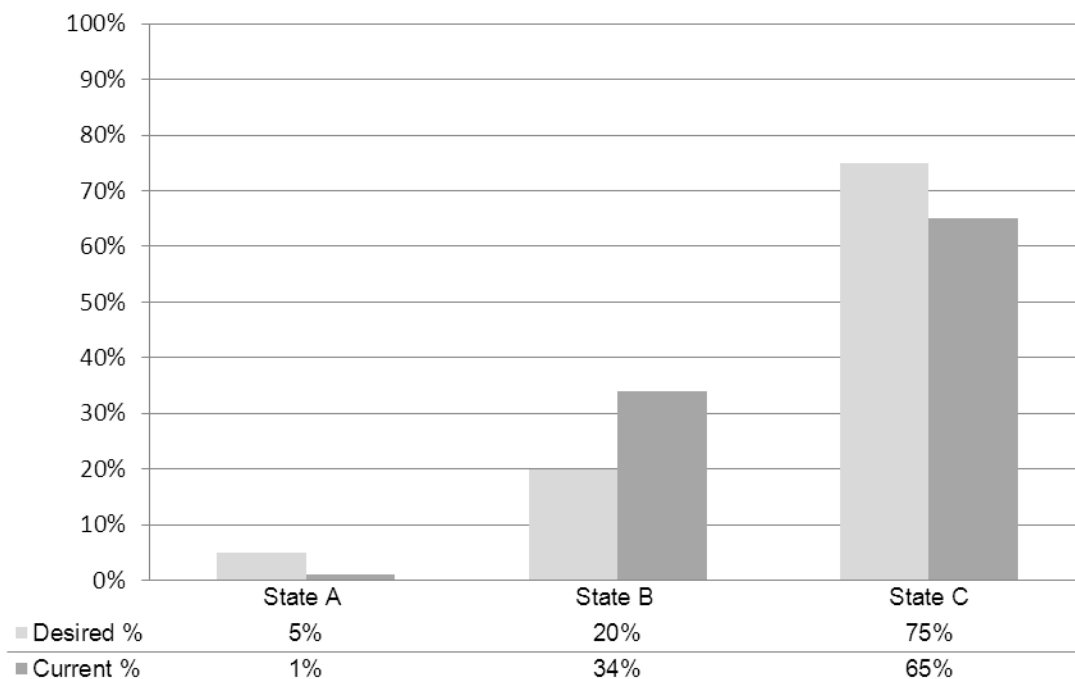


Figure 13. Desert Communities

Desert Communities PNVT Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Herbaceous vegetation, recently burned, sparsely vegetated; with < 10 percent tree or shrub canopy cover; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, SVG, GFB.
- State B – Shrubs, and small woody plants and trees (1–9.9" dia.), with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SHO.
- State C – Shrubs, medium size or larger (>10" dia.) cactus and trees with open (< 30 percent) canopy cover; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SHC, SSO, SMO, SMC, MVO.

The Desert Communities PNVT exhibits a high similarity (86 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

Riparian Gallery Forest

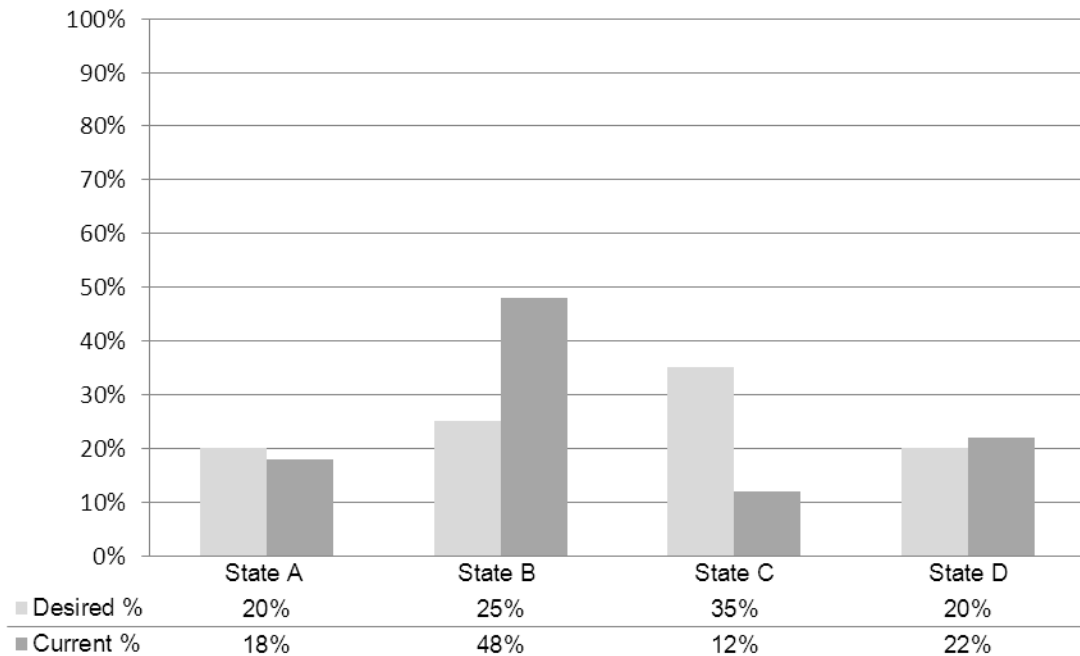


Figure 14. Riparian Gallery Forest

Riparian Gallery Forest PNVT Vegetation Structural States

- State A – Herbaceous vegetation regeneration, recently burned, sparsely vegetated; shrubs, seedling, and sapling size (< 5" dia.) trees; early development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: RB, SVG, GFB, SHR, SSA.
- State B – Small size (5–9.9" dia.), and medium size (10–19.9" dia.) trees with generally closed (>30 percent) canopy cover; mid development. Mid-scale vegetation classification code: SMO, SMC, MOS, MCS.
- State C – Large to very large size (>20" dia.) trees with open or closed canopy cover; late development. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: VCS, VOS.
- State D – Mesquite dominated shrub mixes; late development closed (>30 percent) canopy cover. Mid-scale vegetation classification codes: SHR.

The Riparian Gallery Forest PNVT exhibits a high similarity (75 percent) to desired conditions. The desired condition descriptions and proportions were provided by the Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

VDDT Modeling

The Vegetation Dynamics Development Tool (VDDT), Version 6.0.25 (ESSA Technologies, 2006), a Windows-based computer application, was used to forecast the response of the potential natural vegetation types to human caused and natural disturbance events and agents proposed or expected under each of the plan alternatives. The software allowed for the non-spatial modeling of a series of vegetation states that differ in structure, composition, and canopy cover and to specify the amount of time it takes to move from one vegetation state to another in the absence of disturbance.

Various disturbance agents affecting the movement of vegetation between states (or transitions) are incorporated (e.g., mechanical vegetation treatments, surface fires, mixed-severity fires, stand-replacing fires, grazing, insect outbreaks, and drought events). By varying the types and rates of disturbance across the landscape, the effects of different disturbance regimes, such as historic and current fire regimes, or different management treatments, such as prescribed fire and wildfire managed for resource benefits, fire suppression, grazing practices, and mechanical fuel treatments, on vegetation can be investigated (Schussman and Smith, 2006a). Input data used in modeling came directly from forest management activities and fire data over the last 25 years.

State destinations and transition probabilities for vegetation treatments were derived from Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS), modeling, Version 6.31. FVS is a distance independent; individual tree forest growth model widely used in the United States and is used to compare alternatives.

State destinations for natural fires and fire treatments were derived from FVS modeling, Version 2.02 and Fire and Fuel Extension (FFE) (Rebain, 2010). Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot data were used to calibrate the VDDT model to estimate relative proportions of even- and uneven-aged conditions on the forests (Weisz et al., 2012).

The following PNVTs were modeled using VDDT software: Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak, Ponderosa-Pine Evergreen Oak, Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub, and Juniper Grassland. These PNVt models were developed by the Forest Service Southwestern Regional Office. The VDDT models for Interior Chaparral, Semi-Desert Grassland, and Great Basin Grassland PNVTs were developed by the Forest Service at the forest level and reviewed at the regional level prior to analysis.

Some of the drawbacks and limitations of VDDT modeling are:

- VDDT is a non-spatial, long-range strategic model. It does not describe what is happening at a site-specific level of detail and is intended mainly for broad-scale analysis.
- Some of the VDDT inputs used were derived from other modeling outputs, for example FVS timber harvest treatment state transition destinations and the probability of those outcomes.
- The VDDT model divides vegetation conditions within each PNVt into a small number of discrete states, and it is acknowledged that there is more variability within each state than has been modeled.
- VDDT models overstory structure, composition, and cover as defined by mid-scale vegetation mapping in great detail, but does not model the understory vegetation (for example, the species composition of grasses and forbs).

- VDDT modeled the distribution of landscape states over time, and does not model the more detailed physical (e.g. soil temperature, precipitation, aspect, elevation, productivity), chemical, and biological dynamics of what is happening at each scale of spatial resolution.
- VDDT models the probability and timing of events (e.g., fire behavior, management activities, insect and disease occurrences) based on empirical observations, but cannot accurately predict future behavior due to climate change or other phenomena outside of the historic range of variability.

It was assumed that the disturbances (e.g., management activities) selected for the VDDT model represent the majority of disturbances the Prescott NF experiences. There could be many variations to these disturbances; however, these were not modeled in detail for this analysis. According to Lauenroth and Laycock (1989) and others, succession may follow multiple pathways and reach different end points depending on the effects of disturbance on the life history characteristics of the vegetation; causing predictability to be limited by the importance of chance or infrequent events.

The results of each PNVT model run were recorded in electronic spreadsheets, and calculations of differences between alternatives were performed. PNVT end states were compiled for each alternative and comparisons made between alternatives for similarity to desired condition descriptions and proportions of open canopy states; results were then supplemented by other extra model information for disclosure in the environmental effects analysis.

Vegetation Treatments

Management activities including tree thinning, shrub removal, and prescribed fire were input into individual VDDT models to estimate the resulting movement toward or away from desired conditions, the proportions of each vegetation state, and the expected fire frequency.

Alternative A was modeled using the average number of acres treated over a 10-year period (table 14). The action alternatives (B, C, D, and E) were modeled at both the minimum (tables 15, 17, and 19) and maximum (tables 16, 18, and 20) proposed treatment levels to determine the potential range of outcomes. These outcomes were used to calculate the progress toward desired conditions under a range of treatment levels. This provided the basis for comparison of the trends established by the low and high levels of treatment for each alternative.

The vegetation treatments modeled for each alternative are summarized in the tables below.

The following codes were used to represent the modeled PNVTs:

- SDG Semi-Desert Grassland
- CPGB Great Basin Grassland
- JUG Juniper Grassland
- PJC Piñon-Juniper Evergreen Shrub
- CHAP Interior Chaparral
- PPE Ponderosa Pine-Evergreen Oak
- PPO Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak

The Piñon-Juniper Woodland, Desert Communities, and Riparian Gallery Forest PNVTs were not modeled for treatments.

Table 14. Average annual treatment acres for alternative A

Treatment	SDG	CPGB	JUG	PJC	CHAP	PPE	PPO	Totals
Rx Thin acres	0	0	148	166	159	483	71	1,027
Rx Fire acres	914	6	408	1,568	3,103	1,457	379	7,835
Totals	914	6	556	1,734	3,262	1,940	450	8,862

Table 15. Lower-end average annual treatment acres for alternatives B and E

Treatment	SDG	CPGB	JUG	PJC	CHAP	PPE	PPO	Totals
Rx Thin Low acres	0	0	150	150	200	125	125	750
Rx Fire Low acres	2,500	100	500	1,200	3,800	2,000	500	10,600
Totals	2,500	100	650	1,350	4,000	2,125	625	11,350

Table 16. Higher-end average annual treatment acres for alternatives B and E

Treatment	SDG	CPGB	JUG	PJC	CHAP	PPE	PPO	Totals
Rx Thin High acres	0	0	200	2,000	3,500	400	400	6,500
Rx Fire High acres	6,500	500	800	6,000	6,500	4,000	1,000	25,300
Totals	6,500	500	1,000	8,000	10,000	4,400	1,400	31,800

Table 17. Lower-end average annual treatment acres for alternative C

Treatment	SDG	CPGB	JUG	PJC	CHAP	PPE	PPO	Totals
Rx Thin Low acres	0	0	150	150	200	125	125	750
Rx Fire Low acres	6,500	500	500	1,200	3,800	2,200	800	15,500
Totals	6,500	500	650	1,350	4,000	2,325	925	16,250

Table 18. Higher-end average annual treatment acres for alternative C

Treatment	SDG	CPGB	JUG	PJC	CHAP	PPE	PPO	Totals
Rx Thin High acres	0	0	200	1,000	2,000	400	400	4,000
Rx Fire High acres	8,500	1,000	800	2,000	4,000	4,500	2,000	22,800
Totals	8,500	1,000	1,000	3,000	6,000	4,900	2,400	26,800

Table 19. Lower-end average annual treatment acres for alternative D

Treatment	SDG	CPGB	JUG	PJC	CHAP	PPE	PPO	Totals
Rx Thin Low acres	0	0	150	150	200	125	125	750
Rx Fire Low acres	2,500	100	500	1,200	3,800	2,000	500	10,600
Totals	2,500	100	650	1,350	4,000	2,125	625	11,350

Table 20. Higher-end average annual treatment acres for alternative D

Treatment	SDG	CPGB	JUG	PJC	CHAP	PPE	PPO	Totals
Rx Thin High acres	0	0	200	1,000	2,000	400	400	4,000
Rx Fire High acres	6,500	500	800	2,000	4,000	4,000	1,000	18,800
Totals	6,500	500	1,000	3,000	6,000	4,400	1,400	22,800

Other Data Sources and Assumptions

Other data sources used in the vegetation and fire ecology analysis include the summary field information compiled for the “Ecological Classification of the Prescott National Forest” (Girard et. al., 2008) and corporate data on wildland fire occurrence.

Assumptions that were part of the analysis include:

- The population and calibration of VDDT using FIA plots and FVS modeling of growth and disturbances generally represents the response of PNVTs well enough to compare outcomes proposed by the various alternatives in terms of desired conditions and treatment objectives.
- A range of treatment activities is proposed for each alternative. The VDDT model was used to estimate outcomes at the minimum and maximum levels of treatment for each vegetation and fire management objective.

- Because some of the treatment objectives target a combination of PNVTs, it was necessary to assign treatment levels to individual PNVTs based on testing of VDDT model sensitivity, existing and desired conditions, and professional judgment. As an example, Objective-3 under alternative B states, “Treat 20,000 to 90,000 acres in juniper grasslands, piñon-juniper shrublands, or piñon-juniper woodlands PNVTs using mechanical treatments, fire, or domestic livestock ...” The objective does not specifically define how much of each activity is to occur for each PNV. The specific model inputs used for each alternative are displayed above.

Documents that provide additional details on the vegetation and fire ecology analysis:

- Mapping existing vegetation at the mid-scale level in the Forest Service Southwestern Region. (Mellin et. al., 2008)
- Evaluating the ecological sustainability of a piñon-juniper grassland ecosystem in Northern Arizona. (Weisz et. al., 2010)
- Ecological Classification of the Prescott National Forest (Girard et. al., 2008)
- Prescott National Forest Vegetation and Fire Ecology Specialist Report. (Forest Service, 2011j)

Watershed Analysis

An initial watershed condition assessment for the planning area was performed at the sub-basin and watershed levels as reported in the “Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b). The effects analysis for the revised plan and alternatives used the findings from the “Ecological Sustainability Report” as well as additional information at the sub-watershed level that became available in 2011 from development of the Watershed Condition Classification (WCC) system.

The WCC system uses 12 watershed condition indicators to assess and classify the overall state of each sub-watershed. These indicators and their attributes represent the underlying factors that affect soil and hydrologic function. Most of the indicators can be affected through management actions to maintain or improve watershed condition. This structure provides for a direct linkage between the classification system and management or improvement activities the Forest Service conducts on the ground.

Each of the individual indicators were assessed on their attributes and assigned a rating which falls into one of three classes (table 21):

- **Class 1** - Functioning watersheds exhibit high geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition and are functioning properly.
- **Class 2** – At risk watersheds exhibit moderate geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition and are functioning at risk of impairment.
- **Class 3** - Impaired watersheds exhibit low geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition and are functioning in an impaired condition.

Table 21. Number of Prescott NF watersheds by condition class indicator

Condition Class	Aquatic Physical			Aquatic Biological		Terrestrial Physical		Terrestrial Biological				
	1. Water Quality	2. Water Quantity	3. Aquatic Habitat	4. Aquatic Biota	5. Riparian Vegetation	6. Roads and Trails	7. Soils	8. Fire Regime	9. Forest Cover	10. Rangeland Vegetation	11. Invasive Species	12. Forest Health
Functioning	68	61	29	33	28	0	6	3	39	2	97	97
At Risk	23	23	44	52	52	12	46	91	4	34	0	0
Impaired	6	13	24	12	17	85	45	3	54	61	0	0

The individual indicator scores were grouped into four categories which were then weighted and summed to produce an overall condition rating for each sub-watershed. The aquatic physical (table 20, indicators 1 to 3) and aquatic biological (table 20, indicators 4 and 5) categories are weighted at 30 percent each because of their direct impact to aquatic systems. The terrestrial physical category (table 20, indicators 6 and 7) is weighted at 30 percent because roads are typically one of the highest sources of impact to watershed condition. The terrestrial biological category (table 20, indicators 8 to 12) is weighted at 10 percent because these indicators have indirect impact to watershed condition. The overall watershed condition scores were tracked to one decimal point, with Class 1 = scores of 1.0 to 1.6, Class 2 = scores from 1.7 to 2.2, and Class 3 = scores from 2.3 to 3.0.

Eighty-three of the sub-watersheds administered at least in part by the Prescott NF were rated as “at risk” condition. At the watershed scale, 21 of the 22 watersheds also received an overall “at risk” rating (table 22).

Table 22. Overall watershed and sub-watershed conditions

Condition Class	Number of Watersheds	Number of Sub-watersheds
1 – Functioning	1	12
2 – At Risk	21	83
3 – Impaired	0	2

The individual and overall watershed condition indicator ratings were developed for the WCC system at the sub-watershed level; however, for plan revision analysis, they were also aggregated up to the watershed level to facilitate comparison with the prior analysis compiled for the “Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b).

The ratings for individual condition indicators were used in analyzing the potential effects of the revised plan and its alternatives. Seven of the watershed condition indicators were chosen that best reflect the consequences of recreation use and management in the watersheds and sub-watersheds. They include:

- Riparian/Wetland Vegetation
- Roads and Trails
- Soils
- Fire Regime or Wildfire
- Forest Cover
- Rangeland Vegetation
- Water Quality

Documents that provide additional details on the hydrology and soils analysis:

- Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Hydrology and Soils Specialist Report (Forest Service, 2011k)
- Watershed Condition Classification Technical Guide. FS-978 (Forest Service, 2011m)
- USDA Forest Service Watershed Condition Classification Dataset (Forest Service, 2011n)
- Ecological Sustainability Analysis of the Prescott National Forest: An Evaluation of Water Resource Characteristics, and their Contribution in Ecological Diversity and Ecological Sustainability (Forest Service, 2008a)
- Ecological Sustainability Report (Forest Service, 2009b)

Species Viability Analysis

In the 1982 Planning Rule Provisions, national forests are required to manage for viable populations of native and desired nonnative vertebrate species in the planning area (Sec. 219.19). Direction in the Forest Service Manual adds plants and invertebrates to the species to be analyzed in the viability process.

Viable populations are considered those that have: (1) at least a minimum number of reproductive individuals and (2) habitat that is well distributed so individuals or populations can interact with others in the planning area.

The evaluation of effects on species viability of the revised plan and its alternatives is based on the effects to the ecological conditions that provide for ecosystem diversity (FSH 1909.12, Chap. 40, and Sec. 43.21). The overall assumption of ecosystem management is that managing systems within the range of conditions that native species have experienced over evolutionary time is likely to maintain populations of those species. The evaluation of effects will be assessed as a risk to species viability from the revised plan and its alternatives.

Risk is comprised of two components: the likelihood of a negative outcome and the severity of a negative outcome. From an ecological standpoint, a negative outcome is defined as a departure from reference conditions.

The following indicators were considered for each species:

- How habitat quantity, quality, and distribution is affected by management actions.
- The trends in the quantity, quality, and distribution of habitat.
- The trends in distribution and abundance of the species.

The effects from management actions on the indicators are influenced by numerous measures such as the extent of area affected, the severity of impacts, and the duration of impacts. The consequences of the impacts are then related to their effect on trends to suitable habitat and species populations. The ratings and their descriptions are as follows:

- **Low** – Management actions would have low likelihood of changing habitat quantity or distribution in the planning area. Management actions could have low to high levels of ground or vegetation disturbance within the watersheds. However, due to the small area of impacts and with implementation of best management practices (BMPs⁵) there would be minimal impacts to habitat quality. Trends to suitable habitat and species populations would be maintained or improved in the planning area.
- **Moderate** – Management actions would have low likelihood of changing habitat quantity or distribution in the planning area. Management actions could have low to high levels of ground or vegetation disturbance within the watersheds with a larger extent of area impacted. There would be impacts to habitat quality even with implementation of BMPs. However, impacts would be of short duration and would maintain or improve habitat quality in the long term. Trends to suitable habitat and species populations would be maintained or improved within the planning area.
- **High** – Management actions would have moderate to high likelihood of decreasing habitat quantity or distribution in the planning area. Management actions would have high extent, severity, and duration of impacts to the ecosystem. There would be adverse impacts to habitat quantity, quality, and distribution even with implementation of BMPs. The decrease in habitat would reduce species populations within the planning area.

An assessment of species diversity for the Prescott NF was completed as part of the “Prescott National Forest Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b). From an initial list of 815 species, 121 were determined to have a potential viability concern. Species viability assessments were prepared according to Forest Service policy (FSM 2670) and documented in three specialist reports (Forest Service, 2011f, 2011g, and 2011h).

Viability risks were based on assessments of:

- Availability and current conditions of the habitat or habitat features with which the species are typically associated.
- Population occurrence and distribution.
- Threats from Forest Service management actions expected to occur within the planning area⁶. The results of these assessments provided a determination of no, low, or some risk to viability for each species evaluated.

⁵ BMPs are a practice or combination of practices determined to be the most effective, practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals, and are developed to comply with the Clean Water Act.

⁶ “Fish and wildlife habitat shall be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species in the planning area. For planning purposes, a viable population shall be regarded as one which has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence is well distributed in the planning area...” 36 CFR § 219.19 (1982).

As part of the plan revision process, coarse filter plan components (i.e., desired habitat conditions statements) were developed that describe the desired outcomes and conditions for terrestrial vegetation, riparian habitats and features, and aquatic habitats and features within the planning area. For species determined to be at no or low risk, meeting and maintaining these desired conditions within the planning area would provide for the viability of those species. For those species determined to be at some risk, additional fine filter plan components (e.g., standards, guidelines, and objectives) were developed to lessen population viability risks to ensure the viability of those species.

Of the 121 species indicating a potential viability concern, there were 56 plant species, 11 mammals, 33 birds, 3 reptiles, 2 amphibians, 12 fish, and 4 invertebrates. Forty-one species were found to have no risk to their viability, 48 species were found to have low risk to their viability; and 32 were found to have some additional risk to their population viability.

Table 23 provides a summary of the species that were assessed to be at some potential viability risk and the corresponding Prescott NF plan components (coarse or fine filter) proposed to ensure that viable populations of species can be maintained in the planning area.

Table 23. Plan components addressing species viability concerns

Viability Filter Category	Taxon	Associated Plan Components	Species
Coarse filter plan components alone are sufficient to reduce viability to a level of no or low risk.	Plants	Desired Conditions-Vegetation-1, 3, 4, 5 Desired Conditions-Watershed-1 and 2 Desired Condition- Lands-2	Tonto Basin agave, Phillips' agave, Mt. Dellenbaugh sandwort, Greene milkweed, Creeping milkvetch, Utah bladder fern, Metcalfe's ticktrefoil, Rock fleabane, Flagstaff pennyroyal, Eastwood alumroot, New Mexico alumroot, Flagstaff beardtongue, Oak Creek triteleia, broadleaf lupine, Cochise sedge
	Mammals	PNVT Desired Conditions Desired Conditions-Watershed-1 and 2	Gunnison's prairie dog, plains harvest mouse, western red bat
	Birds	Desired Conditions-Aquatic-1 and 2 Desired Condition- Lands-2	Gilded flicker, Gila woodpecker, elf owl, Lucy's warbler, purple martin, Grace's warbler, juniper titmouse, Gray vireo, piñon jay, Virginia's warbler, western burrowing owl, western grasshopper sparrow, southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo, Abert's towhee, bald eagle, common black-hawk, Bell's vireo
	Reptiles and Amphibians		Arizona toad, lowland leopard frog
	Fish		Gila chub, Gila trout, roundtail chub, desert sucker, longfin dace, Sonora sucker, speckled dace
	Macro-invertebrates		Brown springsnail, Verde Rim springsnail, Maricopa tiger beetle

Viability Filter Category	Taxon	Associated Plan Components	Species
Coarse filter plan components (various desired condition statements) plus fine filter plan components are necessary to reduce viability to a level of no or low risk.	Plants	Standard-Plants-1 and 2 Standard-Recreation-1 Standard-Locatable Minerals-2 Guidelines-Plants-1, 2, 3, 5, 6 Guideline-Range-4 Guideline-Recreation-5 Guideline-Locatable Minerals-6	Arizona wild buckwheat, Basin bladderpod, White Mountain bladderpod, Mearns lotus, Macdougal's bluebells, Skunk-top scurfpea, Verde breadroot, Arizona phlox, Hualapai milkwort, Mearns sage, Black dropseed, Southwestern ringstem, Heathleaf wild buckwheat, Ripley's wild buckwheat
	Mammals	Guidelines-Wildlife-1, 2, 3, 6 Objectives-25 to 28	Pale Townsend's big-eared bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, pronghorn antelope
	Birds	Guideline-Wildlife-1, 2, 4, 5	American peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, red-faced warbler, Cordilleran flycatcher, Bendire's thrasher, northern goshawk
	Reptiles and Amphibians	Guideline-Fish/Aquatics-1, 2, 3, 4	Sonoran desert tortoise, northern Mexican gartersnake, narrow-headed gartersnake
	Fish	Standard-Range-2 Guideline-Watershed - 4, 8, and 11	Gila topminnow, razorback sucker, loach minnow, spikedace, Colorado pikeminnow
	Macro-invertebrates	Guideline-Wildland Fire-8	A caddisfly

Documents that provide additional details on analysis of species viability:

- Viability Procedures for Use in Forest Plan Revision – Draft (Forest Service, 2010c)
- Ecological Sustainability Report (Forest Service, 2009b)
- Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Terrestrial Species Viability Report (Forest Service, 2011f)
- Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Fisheries Specialist Report and Viability Analysis (Forest Service, 2011g)
- Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Vascular Plant Viability Analysis (Forest Service, 2011h)

Management Indicator Species Selection

The 1982 Planning Rule Provisions (Section 219.19) provide direction for the selection and use of management indicator species (MIS) in Forest Service land management planning. Direction includes the following:

- “In order to estimate the effects of each alternative on fish and wildlife populations, certain vertebrate and/or invertebrate species present in the area shall be identified and selected as management indicator species and the reasons for their selection will be stated. These species shall be selected because their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities.” (219.19(1))
- “Planning alternatives shall be stated and evaluated in terms of both amount and quality of habitat and of animal population trends of management indicator species.” (219.19(2))
- “Population trends of management indicator species will be monitored and relationships to habitat changes determined.” (219.19(6))

Selection Criteria

Forest Service biologists and planners followed the process outlined in the “Region 3 Management Indicator Species Selection Process and Criteria,” working draft (Forest Service, 2010d) to evaluate and select MIS for the revised plan and alternatives. The following criteria were used to guide selection of Prescott NF management indicator species:

- The species reflect major management issues or challenges.
- The species are relatively common but have high fidelity to specific habitat or vegetation types.
- The species demonstrate a strong and/or predictable response to management activities.
- A substantial portion of the species life history occurs on Prescott NF lands.
- The species can be monitored effectively and efficiently and is already monitored by large-scale monitoring programs.
- The species are monitored by other entities (e.g., State wildlife agency census data)
- The species represent the following categories where appropriate:
 - Endangered and threatened plant and animal species identified on State and Federal lists.
 - Species with special habitat requirements that may be influenced substantially by planned management programs.
 - Species commonly hunted, fished, or trapped.
 - Non-game species of special interest.
 - Other plant or animal species whose population changes are believed to be appropriate indicators of the effects of management activities on other species (i.e., proxies).

Management indicator species are vertebrate or invertebrate species whose population changes indicate the effects of management activities included in plan components. Habitats that reflect major management issues or challenges and habitats that could be evaluated using MIS were identified.

Information sources such as the “Forest Level Analysis of Management Indicator Species (MIS) for the Prescott National Forest,” 2009 update (Forest Service, 2010e) and the “Ecological Sustainability Report” (Forest Service, 2009b) were used to identify species that could provide evaluation of management actions in habitats identified previously.

Species were reviewed to determine whether: (1) they were strongly influenced by factors other than management activities or did not have well understood narrow habitat associations, and (2) their known populations trends were not related to local changes in habitat composition, structure, or ecological processes.

Selection of Management Indicator Species

The chosen management indicator species are listed below with narratives describing how criteria for selection were met.

Pronghorn Antelope (*Antilocapra americana*): Game Species

- *Species reflect major management issues or challenges?*
Yes. Grassland PNVTs on the Prescott NF are highly departed relative to reference and desired conditions in terms of species composition, horizontal and vertical structure, and fire patterns. Grassland restoration objectives are proposed in varying amounts for all alternatives.
- *Are relatively common but have high fidelity to specific vegetation types?*
Yes. Pronghorn was selected for its close association to grassland habitats. Grassland habitats occupy more than 270,000 acres of the area administered by the Prescott NF and over 1.6 million acres within the Tonto Transition Ecological Section of central Arizona.
- *Demonstrate a strong and/or predictable response to management activities?*
Yes. Increases in pronghorn population numbers and expansion of pronghorn occurrences on or near Prescott NF lands are goals shared by both the Forest Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The agencies work collaboratively to implement habitat improvement projects on Prescott NF lands. Best available science is applied to project design criteria to facilitate habitat improvements.
- *Substantial portion of the species life history occurs on Prescott NF administered lands?*
Yes. While pronghorn populations can be influenced by predators and weather, habitat loss off the forest is a significant impact to local populations. As areas off the forest become unavailable due to habitat loss or fragmentation from urban development, suitable habitat on the forest will likely become more critical to maintaining a sustainable pronghorn population.
- *Can be monitored effectively and efficiently and is already monitored?*
Yes. Because pronghorn are a MIS under the 1987 plan, there are strong baseline data to assess trends from management activities past, present, and future.
- *Are monitored by other entities?*
Yes. Pronghorn are currently monitored by the Arizona Game and Fish Department on an annual basis for areas on and adjacent to the Prescott NF.

Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*): Forest Service Sensitive Species

- *Species reflect major management issues or challenges?*

Yes. Ponderosa pine dominated forests on the Prescott NF are highly departed relative to reference and desired conditions in terms of species composition, horizontal and vertical structure, and fire patterns. Ponderosa pine restoration objectives are proposed in varying amounts for all alternatives.

- *Are relatively common but have high fidelity to specific vegetation types?*

Yes. Northern goshawk is a forest dwelling raptor chosen for its close association with ponderosa pine habitat (all stages of stand structure). The goshawk's primary prey species, the tassel-eared squirrel, is also closely associated with ponderosa pine vegetation. Ponderosa pine habitat occupies about 112,000 acres of the area administered by the Prescott NF and almost 500,000 acres within the Tonto Transition Ecological Section of central Arizona.

- *Demonstrate a strong and/or predictable response to management activities?*

Yes. Monitoring of proposed restoration activities (e.g. prescribed fire, timber harvest, small diameter tree thinning) would reveal the continued suitability of ponderosa pine forests to provide a mix of seral stages necessary for nesting and foraging for the northern goshawk and associated prey species.

- *Substantial portion of the species life history occurs on Prescott NF administered lands?*

Yes. Considering space requirements for northern goshawks, the landscape on the Prescott NF would have a limited capacity for goshawk territories.

- *Can be monitored effectively and efficiently and is already monitored?*

Yes. Because northern goshawk are a MIS under the 1987 plan, there are baseline data to assess trends from management activities past, present, and future.

- *Are monitored by other entities?*

Yes. Northern goshawk is currently monitored on an annual basis by Forest Service and National Park Service units in central and northern Arizona.

Aquatic macro-invertebrates (various species): Species with special habitat requirements

- *Species reflect major management issues or challenges?*

Yes. Native fish and other aquatic species are in decline within several watersheds on the Prescott NF. Restoration objectives to provide habitat and watershed characteristics that will support native fish species are proposed in varying amounts for all alternatives.

- *Are relatively common but have high fidelity to specific habitats?*

Yes. Aquatic macro-invertebrates were selected as an indicator of water quality based on their responsiveness to changes in water quality and physical features of stream channels essential for quality habitat. Perennial and perennial-interrupted streams occupy only 1 percent of the area administered by the Prescott NF, but they are critical for both aquatic and terrestrial species viability throughout central Arizona.

- *Demonstrate a strong and/or predictable response to management activities?*

Yes. A warm-water index of biological integrity (IBI) is used for perennial streams below 5,000 feet elevation. The IBI uses metrics to assess community and taxa richness. Best

available science is applied to project design criteria to facilitate warm-water fish habitat improvements.

- *Substantial portion of the species life history occurs on Prescott NF administered lands?*
Yes.

- *Can be monitored effectively and efficiently and is already monitored?*

Yes. Because macro-invertebrates are a MIS under the 1987 plan, there are baseline data to assess trends from management activities past, present, and future.

- *Are monitored by other entities?*

Yes. Aquatic macro-invertebrates are currently monitored by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on a 5-year rotation basis for each of the major basins in Arizona following established EPA rapid bioassessment protocols.

Documents that provide additional details on the selection of MIS

- Region 3 Management Indicator Species Selection Process and Criteria, Working Draft (Forest Service, 2010d)
- Forest Level Analysis of Management Indicator Species (MIS) for the Prescott National Forest, 2009 update (Forest Service, 2010e)
- Ecological Sustainability Report (Forest Service, 2009b)
- Prescott National Forest Management Indicator Species Selection Process (Forest Service, 2011i)

Recreation Analysis

The recreation analysis was based on professional judgment and in consultation with the Prescott NF plan revision team and recreation program managers.

The trends for maintenance backlog costs were derived from the deferred maintenance reports in the Forest Service Infrastructure corporate database. Although deferred maintenance figures are reported directly for developed recreation, the trails deferred maintenance figures are based on a nationally implemented sampling methodology.

Results from the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program were used to develop visitor profiles and use patterns. The NVUM results were obtained using a methodology that has been developed and employed nationally.

The seven visitor segments are defined in NVUM as follows:

- Non-local day trips: Non-local residents on day trips.
- Non-local OVN-NF: Non-local residents staying overnight on the national forest.
- Non-local OVN: Non-local residents staying overnight off the national forest.
- Local day trips: Local residents on day trips.
- Local OVN-NF: Local residents staying overnight on the national forest.
- Local OVN: Local residents staying overnight off the national forest.

- Non-primary visitors: Visitors whose primary purpose is non-recreation. This category is not considered when projecting changes in recreation visitation.

The estimated changes in visitation were developed by the Prescott NF plan revision team and recreation program managers based on professional judgment and the following assumptions.

All Alternatives

Non-local visitors on day trips are generally assumed to be passing through—they are not from here and the Prescott area/Verde Valley is not their destination. It is assumed that they primarily visit day use developed sites and their duration of stay is under 2 hours. None of the alternatives are focused on increasing short term, day-use opportunities; therefore, it was concluded that visits from this segment would not increase due to the actions in any alternative.

Alternative B

The greatest increase is expected to come from local day users, those people who live in and around the Prescott area, within about 100 miles or a 2-hour drive. This would include day users from both Flagstaff and the Phoenix area. Day users would benefit the most from improved trails and trailheads, enhanced fishing opportunities, and designated dispersed camping. Overnight visitors on the forest would benefit from increased camping opportunities, both developed and dispersed. Overnight off-forest visitors would mainly benefit from the improved trails and trailheads.

Alternative C

The expected increases in use are the same for all segments except for local day users. Their use would not increase as much because trails and trailheads that would receive the improvements would most likely be those that received the greatest use. Lesser used trails that received use primarily from locals would probably see fewer improvements. Visits by overnight off-forest visitors would not be expected to change from alternative B because they would still experience improvements at the popular trails and trailheads.

Alternative D

Local visitors would benefit the most from the greater emphasis on trails and trailheads, including the additional miles of trail that would be constructed to create loops and connect communities. Fewer new developed camping opportunities would be expected to have the biggest impact on non-local, overnight, on-forest visitation due to a smaller increase in capacity than alternatives B and C.

Alternative E

The lack of new developed camping opportunities would be expected have the biggest impact on local and non-local overnight, on-forest visitation compared to alternatives B, C, and D. Lesser used trails that receive use primarily from locals would probably undergo fewer improvements and repairs similar to Alternative C.

Table 24 represents the expected changes in visitation due to changes in recreation management proposed in the action alternatives. No expected changes in visitation were projected for

alternative A because it represents the continuation of 1987 plan direction and contains no changes in management.

Table 24. Projected change in recreation visitation by alternative

Visitor Segments	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Non-local day	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Non-local OVN-NF	0%	+ 5%	+ 5%	+ 3%	+ 1%
Non-local OVN	0%	+ 2%	+ 2%	+ 3%	+ 2%
Local day	0%	+ 10%	+ 7%	+ 12%	+ 7%
Local OVN-NF	0%	+ 5%	+ 5%	+ 7%	+ 3%
Local OVN	0%	+ 5%	+ 5%	+ 5%	+ 5%

Expected changes in visitation are expressed as a percent change (e.g., +/- 10 percent) from visitation expected under 1987 plan direction.

Documents that provide additional details on the recreation analysis:

- National Visitor Use Monitoring Results for the Prescott National Forest (Forest Service, 2009c)
- Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Recreation Specialist Report (Forest Service, 2011o)
- R3 Wilderness Trends in Use (Forest Service, 2009d)
- Prescott National Forest Recreation Niche (Forest Service, 2006)

Scenery and Open Space Analysis

The scenery and open space analysis was based on professional judgment and in consultation with the Prescott NF plan revision team, landscape architect, and lands program manager. This included development of landscape character descriptions and the identification of concern levels for the Scenery Management System.

The Scenery Management System (SMS), a tool developed and deployed nationally by the USDA Forest Service, was used to map, inventory, and assess the current state of the scenic resource on the Prescott NF. It provides a systematic approach for determining the relative value and importance of scenery on national forest lands.

The first step in SMS is to describe the valued landscape character. The landscape character description includes the valued attributes of the landscape, including the important elements of the social environment and environmental regimes, creating a “sense of place.” A description of the biological and physical elements is drawn from data available for ecological or planning units. This landscape character description provides the frame of reference for defining the scenic attractiveness classes.

The landscape character description is also used as a reference for the existing scenic integrity. Existing scenic integrity (ESI) indicates the degree of intactness and wholeness of the landscape character. Conversely, ESI is also a measure of the degree of visible disruption of the landscape character. For example, a landscape with very minimal visual disruption is considered to have a higher ESI; while landscapes with conflicting scenic attributes are viewed as having a lower ESI. ESI is expressed and mapped in terms of very high, high, moderate, low, very low, and unacceptably low. There were no areas on the Prescott NF determined to have an unacceptably low level of scenic integrity, so the ESI determination contained only the five categories described below.

- **Very High** – A scenic integrity level that generally provides for ecological change only. The landscape character is intact. Examples would include all designated wilderness areas.
- **High** – A scenic integrity level meaning human activities are not visually evident; the landscape character appears intact. In high scenic integrity areas, activities may only repeat attributes of form, line, color, and texture found in the existing landscape character. Examples would include the Black Hills area west of the Verde Valley and areas southeast of Granite Mountain Wilderness.
- **Moderate** – A scenic integrity level meaning human activities must remain visually subordinate to the attributes of the existing landscape character. Activities may repeat form, line, color, or texture common to these landscape characters, but changes in quality of size, number, intensity, direction, pattern, and so on, must remain visually subordinate to these landscape characters. Examples include areas immediately west and south of Prescott along the forest boundary.
- **Low** – A scenic integrity level meaning human activities begin to dominate the attributes of the existing landscape character, but they borrow from naturally established form, line, color, or texture so that its visual characteristics are those of natural occurrences within the surrounding area. Examples include areas on the eastern end of the Santa Maria Mountains along the forest boundary.
- **Very Low** – A scenic integrity level meaning human activities of vegetative and landform alterations may dominate the original, natural landscape character but should appear as natural occurrences when viewed at background distances. Examples include certain areas disturbed by flagstone quarries northeast of Drake.

The next step of the SMS inventory is the mapping of “scenic classes,” which show the relative importance of scenery. Scenic classes are determined from a combination of the uniqueness of lands (called scenic attractiveness) and who is viewing those lands (called landscape visibility). There are seven scenic classes, with one being the highest and seven being the lowest.

Scenic attractiveness is used to determine the relative scenic value of lands within a particular landscape character. The three scenic attractiveness classes are: Class A – distinctive; Class B – typical; and Class C – indistinctive. The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, rocks, cultural features, and water features are considered when determining each of these classes.

Landscape visibility is composed of two parts: human values as they relate to the relative importance to the public of various scenes, and the relative sensitivity of scenes based on distance from an observer. Human values that affect perceptions of landscapes are derived from constituent analysis. Constituent analysis serves as a guide to perceptions of attractiveness, helps

identify special places, and helps to define the meaning people give to the landscape. Constituent analysis leads to a determination of the relative importance of aesthetics to the public. This importance is expressed as a concern level. Sites, travelways, special places, and other areas are assigned a concern level value of 1, 2, or 3 to reflect their relative high, medium, or low importance.

As part of the landscape visibility analysis, seen areas and distance zones are mapped from these concern level areas to determine the relative sensitivity of scenes based on their distance from an observer. These distance zones are identified as:

- **Foreground** – up to 1/2 mile from the observer
- **Middle ground** – 1/2 to 4 miles from the observer
- **Background** – 4 miles from the observer to the horizon

Seldom seen areas not seen from travel routes or identified use points are assigned a concern level 1, 2, or 3, based on concern for a specific area, and they may occur in any distance zone or scenic attractiveness class.

A composite scenery base map was produced in ArcMap showing the existing scenic integrity and scenic classes. This was then used to develop new scenic integrity objectives (SIOs) for the proposed revised forest plan.

The results of the analysis were that just over 8 percent of the forest, primarily the designated wilderness areas, received an ESI rating of “very high.” The majority of the remaining forest land, 83 percent, is naturally appearing and has an ESI of “high.” Only about 7 percent of the forest was considered “moderate”; the “low” and “very low” ratings combined accounted for less than 1 percent of the acreage on the forest.

Documents that provide additional details on the scenery and open space analysis:

- Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Scenery and Open Space Specialist Report (Forest Service, 2011p)
- Prescott National Forest Scenery Management System Inventory Report (Forest Service, 2008b)

Socioeconomic Analysis

Section 219.12(h) of the 1982 Planning Rule directs the planning team to “evaluate the significant physical, biological, economic, and social effects of each management alternative that is considered in detail. The evaluation shall include a comparative analysis of the aggregate effects of the management alternatives and shall compare present net value, social and economic impacts, outputs of goods and services, and overall protection and enhancement of environmental resources.” The economic analysis helps to fulfill these evaluation requirements.

Economic impacts were modeled using IMPLAN Professional Version 3.0 (IMpact analysis for PLANing, Minnesota IMPLAN Group, Inc.) with 2009 data. IMPLAN is an input-output model, which estimates the economic impacts of projects, programs, policies, and economic changes on a region. IMPLAN analyzes the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts. Direct economic

impacts are generated by the activity itself, such as the value of cattle grazed on the forest. Indirect employment and labor income contributions occur when a sector purchases supplies and services from other industries in order to produce their product. Induced contributions are the employment and labor income generated as a result of spending new household income generated by direct and indirect employment. The employment estimated is defined as any part-time, seasonal, or full-time job. In the economic impact tables, direct, indirect, and induced contributions are included in the estimated impacts. The IMPLAN database describes the economy in 440 sectors using Federal data from 2009.

Data on use levels under each alternative were collected from the forest's resource specialists. In most instances, the precise change is unknown. Therefore, the changes are based on the professional expertise of the forest's resource specialists (1982 Rule, 219.12(g)). Data on current and future forest use levels were entered in The Forest Economic Analysis Spreadsheet, which is an Excel workbook that interfaces with IMPLAN to streamline data entry and generate economic impact tables.

Regional economic impacts of the plan alternatives are estimated based on the assumption of full implementation of each alternative. The actual changes in the economy would depend on individuals taking advantage of the resource related opportunities that would be supported by each alternative. If market conditions or trends in resource use were not conducive to developing some opportunities, the economic impact would be different than estimated here.

Financial efficiency analysis was conducted with QuickSilver Version 6. The financial efficiency analysis compares the anticipated Forest Service expenditures and revenues, by alternative, over the life of the forest plan for each alternative. Data on program expenditures and revenues were provided by the Prescott NF resource specialists and budget staff (1982 Rule, 219.12(e)). A 4 percent discount rate is commonly used for evaluations of long term investments and operations in land and resource management by the Forest Service (FSM 1971.21). This discount rate was used in the calculation of present net value (PNV).

PNV is the difference between program revenues (benefits) and program expenditures (costs) over a 15-year period, using a 4 percent discount rate. The annual expenditures were summed over 15 years using a 4 percent discount rate (so that one dollar today is valued higher than one dollar in 10 years). The sum of the discounted annual expenditures represents the present value of costs. The same exercise was conducted using the annual program revenues for key resources areas. The sum of the discounted annual revenues represents the present value of benefits. The difference between the present value of costs and the present value of benefits is present net value. The higher the PNV, the more financially efficient the alternative. Inflation can affect PNV; however, due to the uncertainty of future inflation, OMB Circular A-94 recommends avoiding assumptions about the inflation rate whenever possible. Thus, for the purposes of this analysis, inflation is left at zero.

Data on use levels under each alternative were collected from the forest's resource specialists. In most instances, the precise change is unknown. Therefore, the estimated changes were based on the professional expertise of the forest's resource specialists (1982 Rule, 219.12(g)).

Social impacts were estimated using the baseline social conditions presented in the "Socioeconomic Resources Affected Environment" section of the EIS and visitor profiles from the FY2009 NVUM results for the Prescott NF (Forest Service, 2009c) to discern the primary

values that the forest provides to area residents and visitors. Social effects were based on interaction of the identified values with estimated changes to resource availability and uses.

The socioeconomic impacts analyses included these additional assumptions:

- Information on the timing of costs and benefits was not available for the economic efficiency analysis. Furthermore, the analysis does not provide a full accounting of all costs and benefits. The only benefits considered are program revenues (i.e., forest receipts). The only costs considered are direct forest expenditures. Therefore, the following estimates of net present value are limited to the available data, which was sufficient to conduct a thorough economic efficiency analysis.
- The economic impact of grazing was estimated using authorized levels. However, actual use is permitted annually based on various factors, such as current forage conditions. Therefore, the estimated economic impact of grazing is likely to overstate the jobs and income provided.
- Changes in use levels were estimated using professional judgment. However, actual changes in use are difficult to predict and frequently depend on factors outside the control of the Forest Service.
- Some of the value of forest management is not captured in market transactions. Non-market goods and services, such as clean air and scenic vistas, have economic values. However, the monetary value of such goods and services is generally unknown. As a result, it is difficult to analyze potential tradeoffs between market and non-market values. In general, management actions that promote forest health will increase non-market values. For the purpose of this analysis, recommended wilderness areas will be used as a proxy for non-market values.
- The framework for the social analysis employs generalities. Area residents and Prescott NF visitors have diverse preferences and values that may not be fully captured in the description of social consequences. Nevertheless, the general categories are useful for assessing social impacts based on particular forest related interests.

Documents that provide additional details on the socioeconomic analysis:

- Socio-economic Resource Report (Forest Service, 20011q)
- National Visitor Use Monitoring Results for the Prescott National Forest (Forest Service, 2009c)

References

- ESSA Technologies Ltd. (2006). www.essa.com/downloads/vddt/
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (1981). *Verde River Wild and Scenic River Study Report and Environmental Impact Statement*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (1997). *Environmental Assessment for Grapevine Springs Botanical Area Designation*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2006). *Prescott National Forest Recreation Niche*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.

- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2008a) *Ecological Sustainability Analysis of the Prescott National Forest: An Evaluation of Water Resource Characteristics, and their Contribution in Ecological Diversity and Ecological Sustainability*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2008b). *Prescott National Forest Scenery Management System Inventory Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2009a). *Research Natural Area Process for Forest Plan Revision under the 1982 Planning Rule Provisions*. Albuquerque, NM: Southwestern Region Regional Office.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2009b). *Ecological Sustainability Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2009c). *National Visitor Use Monitoring Results for the Prescott National Forest*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2009d). *R3 Wilderness Trends in Use*. Albuquerque, NM: Southwestern Region Regional Office.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2010a). *Prescott National Forest Research Natural Area Evaluation Process Summary Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2010b). *Upper Verde River Eligibility Report Update for the National Wild and Scenic River System*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2010c). *Viability Procedures for Use in Forest Plan Revision – Draft February 2, 2010*. Albuquerque, NM: Southwestern Region Regional Office.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2010d). *Region 3 Management Indicator Species Selection Process and Criteria, modified from R2 – Working Draft Edited by R3-February 2, 2010*. Albuquerque, NM: Southwestern Region Regional Office.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2010e). *Forest Level Analysis of Management Indicator Species (MIS) for the Prescott National Forest, 2009 update*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011c). *PNF Recreation Suitability Matrix*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011d). *Prescott National Forest Determination of Livestock Grazing Capability and Suitability Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011e). *Prescott National Forest Timber Suitability, Long term Sustained Yield Capacity, and Allowable Sale Quantity Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011f). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Terrestrial Species Viability Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.

- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011g). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Fisheries Specialist Report and Viability Analysis*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011h). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Vascular Plant Viability Analysis*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011i). *Prescott National Forest Management Indicator Species Selection Process*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011j). *Prescott National Forest Vegetation and Fire Ecology Specialist Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011k). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Hydrology and Soils Specialist Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011m). *Watershed Condition Classification Technical Guide*. FS-978. Washington, DC: Stream Systems Technology Center.
www.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed/
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011n). USDA Forest Service Watershed Condition Classification Dataset. Accessed November 2011
www.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed/interactivemap/USDAFS-WCF-2010.html
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011o). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Recreation Specialist Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011p). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Scenery and Open Space Specialist Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2011q). *Socio-economic Resource Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2012). *Prescott National Forest Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2014). *Prescott National Forest Plan Revision EIS Wilderness Recommendations by Forest Plan Alternative*. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
- Girard, M.M., Robbie, W.A., and Wahlberg, M. (2008). *Ecological Classification of the Prescott National Forest*. Albuquerque, NM: Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office
- LANDFIRE. (2007). LANDFIRE National Vegetation Dynamics Models. Accessed April 2008.
www.landfire.gov/index.php
- Lauenroth, W.K., and Laycock, W.A. (1989). *Secondary succession and the evaluation of rangeland condition*. Westview Press, Inc., Boulder, CO. pp. 163
- Mellin, T.C., Triepke, F.J., and Joria, P.E. (2008). Mapping existing vegetation at the mid-scale level in the Forest Service Southwestern Region. in *Proceedings of the Twelfth Biennial USDA-Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Conference (RS-2008), 15-17 April 2008, Salt Lake City, UT*. Washington, DC: Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center.

- Rebain, Stephanie A. (comp.) (2010) (revised 2012). *The fire and fuels extension to the forest vegetation simulator: updated model documentation. Internal Report* (revised March 20, 2012). USDA Forest Service. Forest Management Service Center, Fort Collins, CO. pp. 397.
- Robertson, G. Boness, P., Gallegos, J., Hurja, J., Leathy, S., Miller, G., Robbie, W., Scalzone, K., Stein, R., and Steinke, R. (2000). Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey of the Prescott National Forest. Forest Service, Southwestern Region. Albuquerque, NM.
- Schussman, H., and Smith, E. (2006). Vegetation models for Southwest Vegetation. Prepared for the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region by The Nature Conservancy, Tucson, AZ. Pp. 11.
- Weisz, R, Triepke, J., Vandendriesche, D., Manthei, M., Youtz, J.A., Simon, J., and Robbie, W. (2010). Evaluating the ecological sustainability of a piñon-juniper grassland ecosystem in Northern Arizona. in Jain, T.B., Graham, R.T., and Sanquist, J. tech eds. *Integrated management of carbon sequestration and biomass utilization opportunities in a changing climate: Proceedings of the 2009 National Silviculture Workshop; 2009 June 15-18; Boise, ID. Proceedings RMRS-P-61*. Fort Collins, CO: Rocky Mountain Research Station.
- Weisz, R, Vandendriesche, D., and Moeur, M. February 2012. White Paper O - Overview of How We Created VDDT Models with FVS - Calibrating Natural and Anthropogenic Events in State and Transition Models with FVS: A case study for ponderosa pine forest ecosystems. (One of 16 papers in the regional white paper series titled “The R3 FVS Process for Evaluating the Effects of Vegetation Management Activities in the Forest Plan Revision Process”). USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM. Interoffice publication.
- Youtz, J.A., and Vandendriesche, D. (2011). National Forest Planning and Sustained Yield of the Timber Resource Long term Sustained-Yield Calculations for Forest Land and Resource Management Planning. Albuquerque, NM: Forest Service Southwestern Region Regional Office.

Appendix C. Coordination with Other Planning Efforts

Introduction

Provisions of the 1982 Planning Rule state that the responsible line officer shall review the planning and land use policies of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and American Indian tribes. This review should include consideration of objectives as expressed in their plans and policies, an assessment of interrelated impacts of these plans, a determination of how each forest plan deals with the impacts, and where conflicts arise, consideration of alternatives for resolution of conflicts.

In addition, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has called for an “all lands approach” to management. This involves landowners, governments, and agencies working together across boundaries to determine common goals for the landscapes they share.

This document is written in response to the direction in 1982 Planning Rule Provisions as well as to help determine and display strategies for accomplishing national forest management using an all lands approach. It summarizes objectives and policies of various levels of government and tribal groups related to Prescott National Forest (Prescott NF) resource management, displays how the Prescott NF revised plan is expected to respond to these objectives and policies, and makes a determination of whether there are conflicts that need to be addressed in alternative comparison in the environmental impact statement (EIS). The document is organized as follows:

- Objectives/concerns of **local government** plans (including towns, cities, and regional plans)
- Objectives/concerns of **county governments** as expressed in their plans and policies
- Objectives/concerns of **State agencies**
- Objectives/concerns of other **Federal agencies**
- Objectives/concerns of **tribal governments**

Local Government Plans

Table 25 summarizes natural resource related objectives or concerns of local governments, such as towns, cities, or regions; provides questions related to those concerns that the Prescott NF revised plan needs to answer; responds to the questions based on the revised plan; and displays whether a conflict exists and needs to be considered in an alternative in the EIS. Community and town general plans that exist within or near the Prescott NF were included. The Verde Valley Regional Plan was also included.

Table 25. Objectives or concerns from local government plans and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
Ash Fork USDA Forest Service Action Plan II, 2004			
There were concerns about littering and trash dumping on national forests. Forest Service kiosks, maps, and information are desired at the Ash Fork Visitor Center.	How can the Prescott NF work with Ash Fork to help avoid dumping and improve clean-up efforts? Can Prescott NF information be provided to people or tourists in Ash Fork?	Appendix B, Proposed and Probable Management Practices, includes exploration of partnership opportunities to collect and dispose of dumped material. Recreation desired conditions include strategically locating facilities to respond to changing demographics and demand. Obj-14 calls for developing additional methods for providing visitor information.	NO
Paulden Community Plan, 2007			
Paulden vision statement emphasizes retaining a sense of openness for the area. Goal 1 lists prevention of breaking up rural areas as key to sustaining a rural character. Goal 6 includes providing for wise use of scarce water resources. Trails within Paulden are recommended and there would likely be a desire to connect with national forest trails at public/private boundaries.	How can the Prescott NF assist in providing open space and rural character to the Paulden area? How can the Prescott NF assist in providing for wise use of water resources? How can the Prescott NF coordinate with trail recommendations within Paulden?	Needs for change for the revision of the Prescott NF 1987 plan include: (1) enhancing the scenic value of Prescott NF provided open space; (2) maintaining or improving watershed integrity to provide desired water quality, quantity, and timing of delivery; and (3) providing diverse recreational experiences that reflect desires of local communities. Desired condition descriptions were developed for open space, watershed, and recreation. Obj-11 and Obj-17 call for improving trails and trailheads. Obj-18 and Obj-20 call for improvement of watershed conditions and trails/roads that may be impacting watershed condition. Obj-29 calls for acquiring lands, as feasible and available, to retain open space values across the Prescott NF.	NO Alternative D does include an objective that calls for construction of new trails.
Town of Chino Valley General Plan, 2003			
Policy RObj-4.3 expresses desires to link the town's recreation resources to other recreation resources surrounding the community. Goal EP-4 promotes contiguous open areas for wildlife habitat and	How can the Prescott NF provide links to Chino Valley's recreation resources? How can the Prescott NF cooperate with Chino Valley in providing open areas for wildlife habitats?	The Prescott NF does not share a boundary with the town of Chino Valley. However, desired condition statement, objective, and guideline (DC-Rec-1, Obj-14, and Guide-Rec-3) direct the Prescott NF to look for new ways to share information related to recreational opportunities on the national forest. Obj-27 calls for treatment of areas to enhance pronghorn	NO Alternative C provides for increased amounts of habitat and migration

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
protection of sensitive natural terrain.		migration as well as treatment of habitat to improve pronghorn habitat quality.	habitat improvement for pronghorn.
Prescott Basin Community Protection and Economic Development Plan, 2004			
<p>The goal of the plan is to convince home and property owners within the wildland-urban interface of the necessity and responsibility to adopt defensible space and other techniques to develop a defensible boundary around the urban interface.</p> <p>In addition, the plan calls for increased commercial use of material removed during fuel reduction activities.</p>	How can the Prescott NF cooperate in both commercial and non-commercial fuel reduction activities?	<p>Needs for change for the revised plan include restoring vegetation arrangements, plant species, and fire to selected ecosystems.</p> <p>Desired conditions at the mid-scale level for vegetation types surrounding the Prescott Basin include descriptions of younger, widely spaced vegetation within the wildland-urban interface. DC-Veg-2 also calls for sustainable amounts of products to be produced.</p> <p>Objective ranges allow for increased mechanical or prescribed fire treatments in ponderosa pine, grasslands, piñon-juniper, and chaparral.</p>	NO Objectives in alternative C provide for increased treatment in ponderosa pine and grasslands, with less treatment in chaparral and piñon juniper types.
Yavapai Communities Wildfire Protection Plan, 2004			
This plan was developed as an ongoing collaborative process to reduce the risk of wildfire within combustible vegetation that surrounds communities within the planning area boundaries, including: Prescott, Cherry, Spring Valley, Crown King, Yarnell, Skull Valley, and others.	How can the Prescott NF collaborate with communities, fire suppression organizations, and the Prescott Area Wildland-Urban Interface Commission in decreasing fuels and reducing risks of catastrophic wildfire?	<p>Management approaches indicate that the Prescott NF will continue to be a part of volunteer efforts to manage natural resources; this would include the Prescott Area Wildland-Urban Interface Commission.</p> <p>Desired conditions were developed for vegetation types that departed from estimated historical ranges, and objectives calling for more frequent disturbance as prescribed fire or mechanical fuel removal are included. Desired conditions at the mid-scale level for vegetation types found within wildland-urban interface include descriptions for more widely spaced vegetation and a shorter interval between disturbances.</p>	NO

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
Prescott General Plan, 2003			
Strategies and goals that relate to the Prescott NF include: (a) expand cooperative programs including trail connectivity and maintenance standards; (b) confer with Prescott NF and others to protect viewsheds, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and riparian areas; and to integrate systems involving open space and recreation; (c) cooperate with others in preventing aquifer contamination; (d) link public and private open space and trail systems; and (e) retain current government functions.	<p>How can the Prescott NF cooperate with the city of Prescott in protecting viewsheds, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, riparian areas, and aquifers?</p> <p>How can the Prescott NF provide connectivity in trail systems and open space areas?</p> <p>Will the Prescott NF continue its current functions?</p>	<p>Desired conditions for scenery (DC-Scenic-1, DC-Open Space-1), wildlife habitat (DC-Wildlife-1, DC-Aquatic 1 and 2), cultural resources (DC-Heritage-1), and watershed health (DC-Watershed-1 to 6) have been included.</p> <p>Objectives set priority for achievement of projects to retain and improve watershed health. Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat and scenic value are also included.</p> <p>Standards and guidelines that provide guidance for carrying out projects have been developed to maintain and improve scenic values (Guides-Scenic-1 to 9, Guide-Wildland Fire-6), wildlife habitat (Guides-Fish/Aquatics-1 to 4, Guides-WL-1 to 10, Guide-Trans-6), cultural resources (Guides Heritage-1 and 2), and watershed health (Stds-WS-1 to 3, Guides-WS-1 to 11, Guide-Trans-6, Guide-Rec-6, and Guide-Wildland Fire-8).</p>	NO
Prescott Valley General Plan 2020, Adopted in 2002			
<p>Prescott Valley goals or policies that may interact with the Prescott NF include the following:</p> <p>EPW-A6—Promote environmental awareness and resource conservation.</p> <p>EPW-A9—Provide contiguous open areas for wildlife habitat and protection of sensitive natural terrain.</p> <p>EPW-A9.1—Support preservation of contiguous open space for migration of native wildlife.</p> <p>EPW-A9.3—Actively participate with appropriate Federal, State, and county agencies that are trying to</p>	<p>How does the Prescott NF revised plan blend with Prescott Valley's desire to promote environmental awareness?</p> <p>How does the Prescott NF revised plan address contiguous open areas for wildlife habitat and endangered or threatened wildlife?</p> <p>How can the Prescott NF coordinate with Prescott Valley to preserve archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources?</p>	<p>A desired condition statement, objective, and guideline (DC-Rec-1, Obj-14, and Guide-Rec-3) guides the Prescott NF to look for new ways to share information related to recreational opportunities on the national forest.</p> <p>Desired conditions are described for desired wildlife habitat (DC-Wildlife-1, DC-Aquatic 1 and 2). Objectives set priority for achievement of projects to retain and improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. Obj-1, Obj-3, Obj-25, Obj-26, and Obj-27 provide for improving migration and other habitat for pronghorn on the national forest.</p> <p>Guide-WL-1 to 10 provide guidance for protecting wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Guide-WL-1 and Guide-Fish/Aquatics-1 provide direction for threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>DC-Heritage-1 includes guidance to provide opportunities for interpretation, research, stewardship, and enjoyment of our</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Alternative C provides for increased amounts of habitat and migration corridor improvement for pronghorn. It also provides for increased acreage of prescribed burning in semi-desert</p>

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
<p>preserve or aid endangered wildlife.</p> <p>EPW-A10.2—Coordinate with appropriate agencies to protect and preserve the town’s archaeological, paleontological, and historic resources.</p>		<p>cultural past.</p> <p>Appendix B, Proposed and Probable Management Practices, includes reference to volunteer assistance in managing resources. Heritage resources are a part of this.</p>	<p>grasslands to restore ecosystem character and improve habitat.</p>
Town of Dewey-Humboldt 2009 General Plan			
<p>Dewey-Humboldt goals/objectives include the following:</p> <p>Open space/Trails Goal 1—Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies to achieve regional open space goals.</p> <p>Open space/Trails Goal 2—Protect scenic vistas, wildlife corridors and habitats, major washes, and riverbeds. This includes limiting development potential on sensitive lands such as locations where threatened, endangered, or desirable indigenous species may be found.</p> <p>Open space/Trails Goal 3—Encourage accessibility to outdoor enjoyment by residents and visitors.</p> <p>Environmental Planning Goal 1—Highlight community sustainability by preserving the quality of air, water, and scenic resources.</p> <p>Environmental Planning Goal 3—Extend positive environmental influences beyond the town’s</p>	<p>How might the Prescott NF help to achieve regional open space goals?</p> <p>What is the Prescott NF including in the revised plan related to scenic vistas and view protection cooperation?</p> <p>How might the Prescott NF plan relate to wildlife corridors and habitats, or locations where threatened or endangered species may be found?</p> <p>Does the Prescott NF revised plan include components that will assist in encouraging accessibility to outdoor enjoyment?</p> <p>How might the Prescott NF revised plan help preserve air and water quality and scenic resources?</p> <p>In what way will watercourse characteristics be monitored?</p>	<p>Open space was a major need for change in developing the revised plan. DC-Open Space-1 states that there is a desire to retain open space values such as naturally appearing landscapes, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunity, and riparian/wetland character. Obj-29 calls for obtaining lands where feasible and available to retain open space values.</p> <p>Desired conditions for scenery (DC-Scenic-1, DC-Open Space-1) have been included. Standards and guidelines that provide guidance for carrying out projects have been developed to maintain and improve scenic values (Guides-Scenic-1 to 9, Guide-Wildland Fire-6). Guide-Lands-2 calls for consideration of visual characteristics when responding to land exchange proposals.</p> <p>Desired conditions for wildlife habitat (DC-Wildlife-1, DC-Aquatic 1) include statements such as, “habitats are free of negative impacts from nonnative or feral species.” Objectives set priority for achievement of projects to retain and improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. Vegetation types that are departed from historic conditions include treatment objectives to assist in the trend toward desired conditions. Obj-1, Obj-2, Obj-3, Obj-25, Obj-26 and Obj-27 provide for improving migration and other habitat for pronghorn on the national forest.</p> <p>Recreation desired conditions (DC-Rec-1 and 2) include statements such as: the number and location of recreation facilities respond to changing demographics and demand, and trail routes include both point-to-point trails that connect</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Alternative C includes a higher amount of habitat and migration corridor improvement for pronghorn.</p>

Appendix C. Coordination with Other Planning Efforts

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
<p>boundaries, including soliciting view protection cooperation from the county and land management agencies.</p> <p>Water Resources Goal 4—Protect and sustain the Agua Fria River’s viability. Monitor water quality and maintain riparian habitat along the river and other watercourses.</p>		<p>communities and interconnected loops of varying lengths.</p> <p>DC-Lands-1 includes desires for rights-of-way for which legal access is obtained.</p> <p>Objectives call for improving the condition of trails and trailheads (Obj-11 and Obj-17).</p> <p>Desired conditions for watershed health (DC-Watershed-1 to 6) and airshed protection (DC-Airshed-1) have been included. Objectives (Obj-18, Obj-19, Obj-23) call for improving high priority watersheds and at risk riparian areas. Others focus on actions to decrease sedimentation (Obj-20 to Obj-22). Guidelines to protect watershed health (Guides-WS-1 to 11, Stds-WS-1 to 3, Guide-Trans-6, Guide-Rec-6, Guide-Wildland Fire-8) are also included.</p> <p>Monitoring questions include: Are management actions: (1) maintaining or making progress toward desired habitat conditions for native fish, amphibian, and reptile species?; (2) being implemented to improve watershed conditions?; and (3) reducing negative impacts to watershed conditions?</p>	
Town of Dewey-Humboldt Open Space and Trails Plan, June 2010			
<p>The town is interested in continuing its participation in the sustainable recreation strategy efforts especially related to coordination on trails and connection to regional trail systems.</p> <p>The proposed Mingus View Trail Park, Chaparral Trail Park, Henderson Regional Trail Connector, and Prescott Dells Ranch Road/Rocky Hill Road Regional Connector, would require cooperation with the Prescott NF for trail connections to trails 9419,</p>	<p>While trail construction projects will be addressed at the site-specific level, does the Prescott NF revised plan allow for cooperation and coordination with the town of Dewey-Humboldt?</p> <p>Is there any guidance related to trail construction or connections?</p>	<p>Appendix B, Proposed and Probable Management Practices, recognize that: (1) citizens would like to be actively involved in national forest management and (2) volunteer assistance in trail improvement or trail construction would be part of the intent of the Prescott NF.</p> <p>The ongoing recreation strategy effort that is occurring parallel to plan revision will continue. In chapter 5 of the revised plan, there are desired condition statements for geographic areas that are based on zones identified for the recreation strategy effort. Geographic areas are subdivided into management areas.</p> <p>Dewey-Humboldt is adjacent to the Williamson Valley South Management Area; management area desired conditions include a mixture of opportunities to affiliate with other groups with opportunities to be isolated from people. Obj-11</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>The revised plan does not include objectives for constructing new trails. Therefore, alternative D was developed to provide more emphasis on dispersed recreation and calls for</p>

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
9419A, 9405, and 43. The town may be interested in partnership opportunities for trail connectors.		and Obj-17 call for improvement in trailheads and trails throughout the Prescott NF. Guide-Rec-6 calls for use of management tools such as information availability on the Internet, physical structures, or others to ensure resource damage due to recreation activities is prevented. Guide-Rec-10 calls for tools such as self-closing gates or gates around cattle guards for horseback riders to minimize conflicts between recreation use and livestock grazing.	increased trailhead improvement and 10 to 20 miles of new trail construction.
Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization Regional Transportation Study, 2007			
The study provides alternatives and a proposal for a regional transportation system for the planning area with Yavapai County. The system has little direct impact on the Prescott NF except indirectly due to the possible increased numbers of visitors to the area. The proposed regional system (figure 5) indicates that an Eastern Corridor Study may be done sometime in the future for a controlled access facility that could overlap with the Prescott NF.	If the Eastern Corridor Study is done, will it impact the eligibility of the upper Verde River for wild and scenic designation? Could the same study interact with an identified potential wilderness area?	DC-Wild and Scenic-1 includes desires for the outstandingly remarkable values (i.e., archaeological, scenic, fishery, wildlife, recreational, and botanical) and recommended classifications to remain intact in the portion of the Verde River that is eligible for wild and scenic designation until further study is conducted or there is a designation by Congress. Std-W&S-2 states that authorized uses shall not be allowed to adversely affect either eligibility or tentative classification of eligible segments. Current classification of possible affected segments is scenic (segment 1) and wild (Segment 2). DC-Wilderness-1 includes desires for wilderness characteristics of each recommended wilderness to remain intact until further action is initiated by the Forest Service to forward recommended wilderness areas to Congress for designation. Characteristics include: scenic beauty, natural conditions, solitude, and identified special features. No recommended wilderness is expected to be affected in the revised plan; however, alternative D includes the Muldoon area as recommended wilderness which could be impacted.	NO, not at this time. When the future Eastern Corridor Study begins, information sharing between Prescott NF and CYMPO will be needed to prevent possible conflicts.
Camp Verde General Plan, 2004			
Goals/objectives that could relate to the Prescott NF include: (1) preserve and enhance the historic	How would the Prescott NF help enhance the historic character and cultural practices that reflect the history	DC-Heritage-1 includes guidance to provide opportunities for interpretation, research, stewardship, and enjoyment of our	NO

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
<p>character of Camp Verde; (2) develop cooperative programs to document and preserve cultural practices that reflect the history of Camp Verde; (3) encourage use of energy efficient designs and alternative building materials; (4) coordinate with agencies to enforce illegal dumping laws; (5) maintain high level of air and water quality; (6) work with the USFS to ensure land crucial to preserve important viewsheds, sensitive historic areas, and wildlife corridors are identified and protected; and (7) protect existing wildland character of national forest lands.</p>	<p>of Camp Verde?</p> <p>Does plan guidance call for use of energy efficient and alternative building materials?</p> <p>How does the Prescott NF expect to coordinate the enforcement of illegal dumping laws?</p> <p>What plan guidance assists with maintaining water and air quality?</p> <p>What plan guidance will help to preserve viewsheds, historic areas, and wildlife corridors?</p> <p>How does maintaining wildland character blend with plan guidance?</p>	<p>cultural past.</p> <p>DC-Rec-1 expresses desire to retain characteristics of trails or facilities that qualify them for national designations (e.g., the General Crook Trail).</p> <p>DC-Transportation and Facilities-1 includes a statement indicating that facilities are energy efficient and incorporate emerging technologies.</p> <p>Appendix B, Proposed and Probable Management Practices, suggests that collaborative methods are well suited to dealing with trash dumping. Ongoing law enforcement coordination is part of normal implementation activity.</p> <p>Desired conditions for watershed health (DC-Watershed-1 to 6) and airshed protection (DC-Airshed-1) have been included. Obj-18, Obj-19, and Obj-23 call for improving high priority watersheds and at risk riparian areas. Other objectives focus on actions to decrease sedimentation (Obj-20 to Obj-22). Standards and guidelines to protect watershed health (Stds-WS-1 to 3, Guides-WS-1 to 12, Guide-Trans-6, Guide-Rec-6, and Guide-Wildland Fire-8) are also included.</p> <p>Desired conditions for scenery (DC-Scenic-1, DC-Open Space-1) have been included. Standards and guidelines that provide guidance for carrying out projects have been developed to maintain and improve scenic values (Guides-Scenic-1 to 9, Guide-Wildland Fire-6). Guide-Lands-2 calls for consideration of visual characteristics when responding to land exchange proposals.</p> <p>Guide-Heritage-1 and 2 include direction for protection of cultural sites.</p> <p>Desired conditions for wildlife habitat (DC-Wildlife-1, DC-Aquatic 1 and 2) include statements such as, "habitats are free of negative impacts from nonnative or feral species." Objectives set priority for achievement of projects to retain and improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. Vegetation types that are departed from historic conditions include treatment objectives to assist in the trend toward desired conditions. Obj-1, Obj-2, Obj-3, Obj-25, Obj-26, and</p>	

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
		<p>Obj-27 provide for improving migration and other habitat for pronghorn on the national forest.</p> <p>Guide-Lands-3 suggests that lands that have lost their wildland character may be candidates for offer in exchange. Obj-29 calls for acquiring lands as feasible and available to improve open space character. Guideline MA-VV-3 calls for retaining or adding to Prescott NF lands in the Verde Valley and on the east side of the Black Hills between Cottonwood and Camp Verde.</p>	
Clarkdale General Plan Program 2002			
<p>About 1,850 acres of Prescott NF land was annexed to the city in 2001. It is zoned as national forest land, and there is a desire to retain it in a wild character, although trash dumping and unauthorized trails are a problem.</p> <p>Objectives that could relate to the Prescott NF are 4-A.b, 6-A.a, 6-A.b, and 6-A.c. They include: (1) protecting natural areas such as flood plains, the Verde Corridor, steep slopes, and scenic view areas; (2) maintaining high standards of air quality; (3) ensuring high water quality; and (4) supporting preservation of natural resources in Clarkdale.</p>	<p>How might the Prescott NF enhance the wildland character of lands within city limits?</p> <p>What plan components relate to protection of natural areas, scenic views, air quality, and water quality,</p>	<p>Appendix B, Proposed and Probable Management Practices, suggests that collaborative methods are well suited to dealing with trash dumping and other social challenges. Continuing work on the recreation strategy effort that is taking place parallel to plan revision may be a good platform for the determining methods for resolution of the problem.</p> <p>Desired conditions for watershed health (DC-watershed-1 to 6) and airshed protection (DC-Airshed-1) have been included. Obj-18, Obj-19, and Obj-23 call for improving high priority watersheds and at risk riparian areas. Other objectives focus on actions to decrease sedimentation (Obj-20 to Obj-22). Guidelines to protect watershed health (Guides-WS-1 to 12, Stds-WS-1 to 3, Guide-Trans-6, Guide-Rec-6, Guide-Wildland Fire-8) are also included.</p> <p>Desired conditions for scenery (DC-Scenic-1, DC-Open Space-1) have been included. Standards and guidelines that provide guidance for carrying out projects have been developed to maintain and improve scenic values (Guides-Scenic-1 to 9, Guide-Wildland Fire-6). Guide-Lands-2 calls for consideration of visual characteristics when responding to land exchange proposals. Guide-Lands-3 suggests that lands that have lost their wildland character may be candidates for offer in exchange. Obj-29 calls for acquiring lands as feasible and available to improve open space character.</p>	NO

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
Cottonwood General Plan 2003 - 2013			
<p>A major focus of the Cottonwood Plan is to maintain open space for recreation and visual appearance, and for creating separation between Verde Valley communities.</p> <p>Areas of interest include Planning Area 12, Verde River floodway, a linkage between the Mingus Mountains and the Verde River along Black Canyon, and an area near Hayfield draw. Retaining wildland character is important in these areas.</p> <p>Air and water quality is important as well as protection of soils, mountain views, and wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Specific statements include Open Space 1.2.G-H, 2.2.B, EP-1.2, 1.3, 1.5, and 1.6, and WR 1.2, and 1.3.</p>	<p>What plan components relate to retaining scenic values, mountain views, and open land—especially in Planning Area 12?</p> <p>What plan components support protection and enhancement of air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat?</p>	<p>Open space is one of the five areas identified in the revised plan as priority needs for change.</p> <p>DC-Open-Space-1 indicates desires to retain naturally appearing landscapes, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunity, and riparian/wetland character. DC-Lands-2 includes statements identifying need to retain visual character, habitat, and free-flowing water within the Verde River. DC-Scenic-1 includes a desire to retain native vegetation and a high degree of scenic integrity.</p> <p>Obj-29 states that up to 10 opportunities to acquire lands as presented and as feasible will be acted upon within and around the Prescott NF.</p> <p>Verde Valley Management Area desired conditions describe lands within the Prescott NF as enhancing open space, scenic, watershed, and other natural resource values; they are generally retained in national forest ownership or are obtained through land adjustment. Verde Valley Management Area guideline MA-VV-3 includes guidance to retain or obtain lands in the Verde Valley between Cottonwood and Camp Verde, which includes parts of Cottonwood Planning Area 12, for open space, wildlife habitat, or to improve watershed integrity. MA-VV-5 provides guidance to emphasize scenic integrity within the Grief Hill Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>Desired conditions for scenery (DC-Scenic-1, DC-Open Space-1) have been included. Standards and guidelines that provide guidance for carrying out projects have been developed to maintain and improve scenic values (Guides-Scenic-1 to 9, Guide-Wildland Fire-6). Guide-Lands-2 calls for consideration of visual characteristics when responding to land exchange proposals.</p> <p>Desired conditions for watershed health and soils (DC-watershed-1 to 6) and airshed protection (DC-Airshed-1) are important. Obj-18, Obj-19, and Obj-23 call for improving</p>	NO

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
		high priority watersheds and at risk riparian areas. Other objectives focus on actions to decrease sedimentation (Obj-20 to Obj-22). Guidelines to protect watershed health (Guides-WS-1 to 12, Stds-WS-1 to 3, Guide-Trans-6, Guide-Rec-6, Guide-Wildland Fire-8) are also included. Soils guidelines (Guide-Soils-1 to 5) call for minimizing short and long term impacts of soils and water resources.	
Verde Valley Regional Land Use Plan, 2006			
<p>Protect backdrops of foothills and mountains to protect rural character.</p> <p>Prevent “wall to wall” land use—retain gaps between communities while retaining transportation/transit linkages.</p> <p>A clearly defined, connected trail system including multipurpose paths and on-road facilities, is desired.</p> <p>Plan for an interconnected greenway.</p> <p>The area should not be used as a source of parcels for land exchanges elsewhere in national forests within the State.</p>	<p>What plan components relate to retaining scenic values, mountain views, and open land?</p> <p>What plan components relate to trail system development?</p> <p>How do plan components assist with developing interconnected greenways?</p> <p>What are criteria for land adjustment?</p>	<p>Open space is one of the five areas identified in the revised plan as priority needs for change.</p> <p>DC-Open-Space-1 indicates desires to retain naturally appearing landscapes, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunity, and riparian/wetland character. DC-Lands-2 includes statements identifying need to retain visual character, habitat, and free-flowing water within the Verde River. DC-Scenic-1 indicates a desire to retain native vegetation and a high degree of scenic integrity.</p> <p>Obj-29 states that up to 10 opportunities to acquire lands as presented and as feasible will be acted upon within and around the Prescott NF.</p> <p>Verde Valley Management Area desired conditions describe lands within the Prescott NF that enhance open space, scenic, watershed, and other natural resource values. These areas are retained in national forest ownership or are obtained through land adjustment. Verde Valley Management Area guidelines include guidance to retain or obtain lands within the Verde Valley between Cottonwood and Camp Verde, including parts of Cottonwood Planning Area 12, for open space, wildlife habitat, or to improve watershed integrity. MA-VV-5 provides guidance to emphasize scenic integrity within the Grief Hill Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>While the Prescott NF is facilitating an ongoing recreation strategy and prioritization process, the revised plan includes desired conditions (DC-Rec-2) that describe the character of trails on the national forest. This includes a variety of</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Alternative D includes an objective to construct new trails, in addition to improving condition of existing trails.</p>

Appendix C. Coordination with Other Planning Efforts

Objectives or Concerns	Questions the Revised plan Needs to Answer	Revised Plan Response	Need for Alternative?
		<p>settings, point-to-point connectors, loop trails, and meeting needs of a growing population. Obj-11 and Obj-17 call for improving and constructing trailheads and improving existing trail conditions.</p> <p>Obj-29, as described above, is expected to lead to land acquisition in desired open space areas and could enhance greenways.</p> <p>Land adjustment criteria is found in Guide-Lands-2 and 3. They include consideration of wildlife habitat, wetlands, and community vision statements as exchange proposals are considered. Lands that have lost their wildland character are included as having potential for exchange.</p>	

County Governments

The majority of the Prescott NF is located within Yavapai County; approximately 2 percent of the 1.25 million acres of the Prescott NF is located within Coconino County. Approximately 38 percent of the 5.2 million acres in Yavapai County consists of national forest land ownership that is shared between the Prescott, Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto NFs. The Prescott NF revised plan included five focus areas during revision: (1) restore the structure, composition, and function of at risk ecosystems such as grasslands, ponderosa pine, and juniper grasslands; (2) maintain and improve watershed integrity; (3) provide sustainable, diverse recreation experiences; (4) provide desired habitat for native fish; and (5) enhance scenic value of open space.

Yavapai County

Table 26 displays goals from the 2003 Yavapai County General Plan and the 2012 Draft Comprehensive Plan related to the Prescott NF and a summary of how the Prescott NF revised plan addresses or blends with those goals. No conflicts between the Yavapai County Plan goals and the components of the revised plan have been discovered.

Table 26. Yavapai County goals and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds

Yavapai County Goals Related to the Prescott NF as Expressed in their Plans and Policies	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
Sustain the County's Rural Character	Public lands such as the Prescott NF offer rural and primitive experiences. Guide-Rec-2, DC-Transportation/Facilities-1 and individual management area desired conditions help to sustain rural character.
Maintain a Variety of Land Uses and the County's Attractive Image Maintain open space between communities, including coordinating with land agencies sale/exchange proposals to recognize existing zoning and recreational opportunities. Identify sites of scenic interest; practice visual conservation. Increase public access to water resources.	Land use and open space desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines have been developed to enhance open space especially near and between communities where feasible: DC-Open Space-1, DC-Lands-1, DC-Wilderness-1; Obj-29; Guides-Lands-2 to7, Guides-Scenic 1 to 9, and Guide-VV-MA-3. Recreation access to the upper Verde River is expected: Obj-8, Guide-UV-MA-1.
Coordinate Transportation Planning with Agencies and Stakeholders Coordinate new road construction with other transportation and land use agencies to mitigate negative impacts to wildlife and wildlife movement corridors.	A safe, sustainable, and economic transportation system (roads and trails) that balances desire for public access with potential for ecological impacts is desired across the forest: DC-Trans/Facilities-1. Guides-Trans-3 and 5 state that roads and trails should be designed to not impede terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species movement and habitat connectivity; and that wildlife friendly design for cattle guards should be used for new installations. The Prescott NF expects to coordinate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department in development of wildlife linkages within the Prescott NF.
Preserve the Verde River and the County's Major Waterways Identify water supplies for a growing county.	Watershed desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines that improve watershed, wetland, and riparian health are included: DC-WS-1 to 6, Obj-18 to 23, Obj-31, and Guides-WS-1 to 11.

Yavapai County Goals Related to the Prescott NF as Expressed in their Plans and Policies	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
Promote conservation and reuse of water for residential, agricultural, and industrial uses. Encourage the protection of riparian areas, watercourses, and associated flood plains.	Desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines for aquatic related wildlife provide guidance for the Verde River and other waterways: DC-Aquatic-1, Obj-24, and Guides-Fish/Aquatics 1 to 4.
Enhance Parks and Recreational Opportunities Strive to reserve desirable public lands for recreation, open space, protection of wildlife habitats, and buffering residential areas. Encourage connectivity of existing trails between communities and in new developments.	Recreation desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines provide guidance for recreation actions: DC-Rec-1 and 2, DC-Wild and Scenic-1, DC-Wilderness-1; Obj-8 to Obj-17; Guide-Rec-1 to 12, Guide-Wild-1 to 10 and Std-W&S-1 to 2.
Preserve Open Space Character Protect scenic views and mountain vistas; adapt sensitively to natural areas; protect wildlife habitats. Retain agricultural uses, encouraging continued use of ranches, farms, and vineyards. Encourage property owners to maintain and protect historic access to public lands through their property.	Within the county, Prescott NF lands provide scenic views; wildlife habitats; recreational opportunities; and natural, undeveloped spaces. Permitting processes allow for grazing on Federal lands. Desired conditions are described for open space, landownership adjustment, and scenic values: DC-Open Space-1 and 2; DC-Lands-1; and DC-Scenic-1. Pronghorn antelope habitat objectives and guidelines are provided: Obj-25, Obj-27, and Obj-28. Guides-WL-3 and 8 address protection of animal movement corridors. Guide-Lands-1 provides direction for right-of-way authorizations and public access to forest land.
Identify Policies/Practices for Greater Use of Renewable Energy Identify areas that could be conducive to large scale renewable energy production. Encourage the creation of criteria in order to minimize potential issues/impacts from large-scale facilities (e.g. noise, visual aesthetics, preservation of wildlife movement corridors).	Direction for management of new energy sources includes an emphasis on locating power lines and pipelines within existing energy corridors when compatible: DC-Lands-1. Additional guidance is included in Guide-Lands-5 addressing visual impacts, bat and avian collisions, and other wildlife habitat concerns. Desired conditions for new Forest Service facilities emphasize energy efficiency and incorporating emerging technologies: DC-Trans/Facilities-1.
Encourage Balance between Natural and Built Environments Coordinate with land management agencies to create standards to protect wildland-urban interface areas.	Desired conditions for vegetation and fuels are provided for wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas to reduce wildfire behavior and hazards to life and property: DC-Veg-8, 10, 12, 15, and 19. Guide-Wildland Fire-5 and 9 provide direction for reducing fuels within wildland-urban interface areas.

Coconino County

Land under management by the Forest Service makes up 28 percent of Coconino County with most within the Coconino and Kaibab NFs. The Prescott NF contributes only 2,500 acres to Coconino County. Table 27 compares goals from the 2003 Coconino County Comprehensive Plan to summaries of how the Prescott NF revised plan addresses or blends with those goals. No conflicts between the Coconino County Plan goals and Prescott NF revised plan components have been discovered.

Table 27. Coconino County goals and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds

Coconino County Goals Related to the Prescott NF as Expressed in their Plans and Policies	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
<p>Improve forest health and promote the restoration of forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Residents of neighborhoods in wildland-urban interface areas are encouraged to participate in forest planning, management, and restoration efforts.</p>	<p>Desired conditions and objectives, describe ecosystem characteristics for plant species, vegetation arrangements, and fire frequency. Separate desired conditions for wildland-urban interface areas allow for fuel reduction activities: DC-Veg-1 to 22 and Obj-1 to 6.</p>
<p>Manage recreational uses in a manner that minimizes impacts to communities and the environment.</p> <p>The county supports private land managers, management agencies, and citizen groups in their efforts to coordinate planning and maintenance of recreational opportunities that minimize adverse impacts to natural systems and residential areas.</p> <p>The county supports and will assist other agencies with the planning and development of designated OHV routes and educational information that addresses the needs and impacts of OHV uses.</p>	<p>Plan components stress providing diverse recreational opportunities that reflect desires of local communities, avoid overcrowding and user conflicts, and minimize resource damage: DC-Rec-1 and 2, DC-Wild and Scenic-1, DC-Wilderness-1.</p> <p>Standards and guidelines related to motorized travel on the Prescott NF indicate that the motor vehicle use map is the basis for OHV or other motorized vehicle routes: Std-Rec-1 and 2, Guide Rec-1.</p> <p>Guidelines indicate that educational information will be developed and shared: Guide-Rec-3 and Guide-Interp-1.</p>
<p>Concentrate development in designated growth areas while preserving open space and landscapes.</p> <p>The county supports Federal acquisition through exchange or purchase of private inholdings surrounded by national forest or BLM lands that are important habitat areas, that contain environmentally sensitive lands, or that would reduce fragmentation.</p>	<p>Desired conditions describe desires for open space and guidelines provide criteria for land exchange or acquisition: DC-Open Space-1, DC-Lands-2, and Guide-Lands-2 and 3.</p>

State of Arizona

Goals or concerns of eight State of Arizona agencies or departments are discussed here and compared to components of the Prescott NF revised plan. A summary is provided of the mission or goals of each State organization and how the revised plan or its alternatives respond to those goals.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)

The mission of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is to protect and enhance public health, welfare, and the environment in Arizona. ADEQ serves as the State's environmental regulatory agency in the areas of air and water quality and waste programs. Forest management activities strive to be in compliance with the applicable Arizona Revised Statutes, particularly Title 49 which outlines specifics such as water quality standards and total maximum daily loads.

Maintaining or improving watershed integrity is one of five focus areas for plan revision. It includes providing desired water quality in rivers, streams, seeps, and springs on the Prescott NF. Desired conditions, objectives, and standards and guidelines provide direction for improving or maintaining water quality, especially those related to sedimentation: DC-WS-1 to 6, Obj-18 to 23, Guides-WS-1 to 12, Stds-WS-1 to 3, Guide-Trans-6, Guide-Rec-6, and Guide-Wildland Fire-8.

Maintaining air quality is also addressed in the revised plan. DC-Airshed-1 describes conditions to which the Prescott NF aspires.

Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR)

The mission of the Arizona Department of Water Resources is to secure long term dependable water supplies for Arizona. ADWR administers and enforces the State's groundwater code and surface water rights laws. Title 45 of the Arizona Revised Statutes contains the provisions related to water and groundwater resources.

The focus area of maintaining or improving watershed integrity also includes providing desired water quantity and timing of delivery. The main influence that the Prescott NF can have on water yield is retention or restoration of desired overstory vegetation, vegetative ground cover, and disturbance regimes to provide for historic levels of water infiltration and runoff. Desired conditions for vegetation species, vegetation structural characteristics, and fire frequency are included in the proposed revised: DC-Veg-1 to 22. Desired conditions for ecosystem resilience to climate change are also included: DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1.

Arizona Department of Agriculture

The Arizona Department of Agriculture is the State's regulatory agency for agriculture, including animals, plants, and environmental services. Title 3 of the Arizona Revised Statutes contains the provisions related to agricultural topics such as dangerous plant pests and diseases, pesticides, brands and marks, and seizure of livestock. Their mission is to regulate and support Arizona agriculture in a manner that encourages farming, ranching, and agribusiness, while protecting consumers and natural resources.

The revised plan includes desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines to continue treatment of nonnative invasive plant species: DC-Veg-1, Obj-6, and Guides-Plants 2 to 4.

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)

The Arizona Department of Transportation is responsible for planning, building, and operating a State highway system and maintaining bridges.

Improvement and Construction

Other than Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO) road projects referenced in community and regional plans above, road improvement and construction plans are not expected to impact the Prescott NF.

Long Range Planning

ADOT is in the midst of updating their long range plan, the "State Long-Range Transportation Plan." As of January 2011, the goals and objectives of this plan were final. The full plan is scheduled for completion by June 2011. Select goals and objectives that relate to the Prescott NF are as follows:

- **Improve Mobility and Accessibility** – Implement critical and cost-effective investments in infrastructure to expand access to transportation and optimize mobility and reliability in the transportation of passengers and freight.
- **Link Transportation and Land Use** – Protect the capacity of the State transportation system by developing policies and partnerships that strengthen the coordination of land use and transportation planning and implementation. Objectives focus on coordinating with public agency land use planning.
- **Support Economic Development** – Develop and operate a State transportation system that provides predictable freight and people movement throughout the State to support a competitive and thriving economy for Arizona.
- **Promote Natural, Cultural, and Environmental Resources** – Protect and restore the natural, cultural, and environmental resources of Arizona while improving and maintaining the transportation system. Objectives include: (1) implement transportation solutions that improve mobility, enhance communities, and protect and restore the environment; (2) implement an ecological connectivity approach to transportation planning and system development; and (3) collaborate with government agencies and other stakeholders to identify and consider natural habitats, the human environment, and protected natural or cultural resources when planning new or improved transportation services.
- **Strengthen Partnerships** – Develop and nurture partnerships that support coordination and integration of ADOT's planning and investment in State transportation infrastructure with public and private organizations and agencies responsible for land use, conservation, environmental planning, and freight infrastructure.

The main impacts to Prescott NF management due to long-range transportation planning are: (1) the continued increase in visitors to the area to enjoy recreation opportunities and (2) the potential for new corridors to block pronghorn and other wildlife movement or migration habitat. Appendix B, Proposed and Probable Management Practices, of the revised plan indicates the intent of the Prescott NF to coordinate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to identify key wildlife linkages so that mitigations (e.g., overpasses or underpasses) can be placed at strategic locations to allow for wildlife movement. Improving recreation opportunities and avoiding resource damage is addressed in desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines: DC-Rec-1 and 2, DC-Wilderness-1, DC-Wild and Scenic-1, Obj-7 to Obj-17, Std-Rec-1 and 2, Guides-Rec-1 to 12, Std-Wild-1 to 3, Guide Wild-1 to 10, Std-W&S-1 to 2, and Guide-Interp-1.

Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD)

The State's Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Plan (WL 20/20) was approved in 2012 and replaces the now defunct Wildlife 2012 Plan. This strategic plan describes the guiding principles and defines the Department's diverse roles and functions for managing Arizona's fish, wildlife, and wildlife habitats. The Wildlife 20/20 Plan contains policy elements which may provide information for or have an impact on Prescott NF management. Table 28 displays selected goals and objectives from the Wildlife 20/20 Plan and how the Prescott NF revised plan or its alternatives respond.

Table 28. Selected goals and objectives from AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20) and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds

Goals and Objectives Related to the Prescott NF as Expressed in AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
<p>Wildlife Resource Management:</p> <p>Conserve, preserve, enhance, and restore wildlife populations and their habitats.</p> <p>Conserve, preserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's wildlife habitat and resources while balancing resource needs with recreational uses.</p> <p>Maintain or improve the quality and connectivity of habitats to support a diversity of wildlife species.</p> <p>Minimize the negative impacts of invasive species on wildlife and their habitats.</p> <p>Improve the status of wildlife, with particular emphasis on those species listed as species of greatest conservation need.</p> <p>Develop watershed-based approaches for fisheries management.</p> <p>Manage game populations to meet objectives established within hunt guidelines.</p> <p>Manage rare species to maintain biological diversity and reduce federal regulatory burden.</p>	<p>Preparation for development of the revised plan included development of the "Prescott NF Ecological Sustainability Report." This document considered ecosystems and species habitats that needed improvement. A list of wildlife species was developed, including consideration of the species of greatest conservation need (at the time, the Prescott NF identified this list as "Species of Concern and Species of Interest"). Threats to these species were identified and response to those threats are found in vegetation desired conditions and objectives, standards, and guidelines that were developed to address ecosystems or specific wildlife habitat needs: DC-Veg-1 to 22, DC-Aquatic-1-2, Obj-1 to 5, Obj-26-28, Std-WL-1, Guides-WL-1 to 7, and Guides-Fish/Aquatics-1 to 3.</p> <p>The Prescott NF expects to coordinate with AZGFD in development of wildlife linkages with the Prescott NF. Guide-Trans-3 states that roads and trails should be designed to not impede terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species movement and habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Guide-Lands-2 lists lands that contain important habitat such as that needed to maintain migration patterns or important linkages as a criterion for consideration of proposals for land acquisition.</p> <p>Desired conditions, objectives, and guidelines provide guidance for dealing with nonnative invasive species: DC-Veg-1, Obj-6, Std-Plants-1 and 2, and Guide-Fish/Aquatics-3.</p>
<p>Wildlife Recreation:</p> <p>Increase the opportunity for the public to enjoy Arizona's wildlife resources while maintaining and improving wildlife resources.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for use and enjoyment of wildlife and sport fish.</p> <p>Increase participation in wildlife oriented recreational activities.</p> <p>Provide access to public and other lands that are blocked by private lands.</p> <p>Ensure seamless integration of of sport and native fish programs.</p>	<p>Standards and guidelines related to motorized travel on the Prescott NF indicate that the motor vehicle use map is the basis for OHV or other motorized vehicle routes: Std-Rec-1 and 2, Guide Rec-1.</p> <p>Guidelines indicate that educational information will be developed and shared: Guide-Rec-3, Guide-Interp-1.</p> <p>DC-Lands-1 states that rights-of-way for legal access are present commensurate with need. Guide-Lands-1 states that easements should help provide adequate access to the Prescott NF.</p> <p>Obj-13 provides for maintaining recreational fishing opportunities in lakes/pond sites. Obj-30 pursues legal access to areas where historic access to the national forest has been lost.</p>
<p>Off-highway Vehicle, Watercraft, and Shooting Sports Recreation Goals:</p> <p>Increase the opportunity for the public to enjoy shooting sports. Encourage participation in education and information programs supporting safe and responsible use of off-highway vehicles and watercraft, while maintaining or improving wildlife resources and habitats.</p> <p>Increase management of off-highway vehicles</p>	<p>Obj-14 calls for identifying new methods for providing visitor information. Obj-10 calls for additional strategies to raise awareness of responsible target shooting practices.</p> <p>While the motor vehicle use map is the controlling document for motorized travel, the revised plan provides guidance for motorized game retrieval: Std-Rec-1, Guide-Rec-1.</p> <p>Accurate and adequate frequency of signage is emphasized in DC-Rec-2, Obj-12, and Guide-Rec-9.</p>

Goals and Objectives Related to the Prescott NF as Expressed in AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
and efforts to minimize their impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat.	
<p>Partnerships:</p> <p>Maintain and develop effective partnerships that enable the AZGFD and its partners to reach mutual goals.</p> <p>Enhance the AZGFD's ability to manage wildlife resources.</p> <p>Provide recreational shooting opportunities through partnerships.</p>	<p>Obj-24 and Obj-13 call for partnering with AZGFD to better provide recreational fish opportunities and to protect and enhance habitat for native fish species.</p> <p>The Background and Rationale for Obj-10 references the Prescott NFs openness to establishing a partnership to develop a designated target shooting area. Obj-28 indicates that the Prescott NF would like to cooperate with AZGFD in improving water developments for wildlife.</p> <p>Appendix B, Proposed and Probable Management Practices, indicates a desire to continue cooperation with AZGFD and others to carry out management activities. In particular, development of wildlife linkages within the Prescott NF for pronghorn migration was referenced.</p>

In 2012, the Arizona Game and Fish Department updated its strategic wildlife action plan known as the 2005-2015 "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)" with a revised version known as the 2012-2022 "Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)." The SWAP is similar to the original strategic plan but with improvements. The SWAP updates the Species of Greatest Concern (SGCN) list, species distribution models, and stressors and actions. It also acknowledges the impacts of climate change on Arizona's wildlife and habitats and lays out a framework of ongoing climate change initiatives. The SWAP includes eight essential action elements that provide the next 10-year vision for the achievement of wildlife conservation and management in Arizona. These elements were reviewed for potential impact to Prescott NF management. Table 29 displays selected elements from the SWAP and how the revised plan or its alternatives respond.

Table 29. Elements from the *State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)* and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds

Goals and Objectives from the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2012-2022	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
<p>Species of Greatest Conservation Need:</p> <p>The AZGFD prioritized a list of species for conservation actions aimed at improving conditions for those species through intervention at the population or habitat level. Over 530 species were identified as being vulnerable or the species with the greatest conservation needs.</p>	<p>Preparation for development of the revised plan included development of the "Prescott NF Ecological Sustainability Report." This document considered ecosystems and species habitats that needed improvement. A list of wildlife species was developed, including consideration of the species of greatest conservation need (at the time, the Prescott NF referenced them as "Species of Concern and Species of Interest"). Threats to these species were identified and response to those threats included vegetation desired conditions, objectives, standards, and guidelines that were developed to address ecosystems or specific wildlife habitat needs: DC-Veg 1 to 22, DC-Aquatic-1 to 2, Obj-1 to 5, Obj-26-28, Std-WL-1, Guides-WL-1 to 7, and Guides-Fish/Aquatics-1 to 3.</p>
<p>Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need:</p> <p>The AZGFD identified wildlife habitat types at</p>	<p>Potential natural vegetation types (PNVTs) were defined for the Prescott NF. Desired condition statements were developed</p>

Goals and Objectives from the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2012-2022	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
<p>the landscape scale based on Brown and Lowe (1974) vegetation communities and then further refined those habitats based on the SWReGAP vegetation classification. A statewide habitat analysis that answers the question of where to focus in each habitat was completed and is available as a web-based interface called HabiMap Arizona.</p>	<p>that describe how the PNVTs should look and function (DC-Veg-1 through 23). Those that are highly departed from historic conditions have high priority for treatment in the next 10 years in order to trend toward desired conditions. Those treatments are displayed in: Obj-1 to Obj-5.</p>
<p>Stressors/Threats to Arizona's Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats:</p> <p>The AZGFD identified 53 stressors that have impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat in Arizona. The stressors were categorized into levels of high, medium or minor importance. Of high importance and common to the Prescott NF are: altered surface hydrology, climate change, disease, drought, grazing by ungulates, groundwater depletion, invasive plant species, motorized recreation off-road, rural and urban development, sediment/ ash flow, shrub and woodland invasions, and unnatural fire regimes.</p>	<p>Population increases are addressed in recreation response to increased number of visitors as well as open space concerns: DC-Rec-1 and 2, DC-Wild and Scenic-1, DC-Wilderness-1, DC-Transportation and Facilities-1, DC-Open Space-1, and DC-Lands-2.</p> <p>Changes to water storage are addressed in need for change calling for maintaining or improving watershed integrity: DC-Watershed-1 to 6.</p> <p>Invasive, nonnative species were addressed as part of vegetation changes: DC-Veg-1 and DC-Aquatic-1.</p> <p>Climate change was addressed in desired conditions for ecosystem resilience to climate change (DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1) and potential changes are included in background statements for potential natural vegetation type desired conditions.</p>
<p>Conservation Actions for Arizona's CWCS:</p> <p>Conserve Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Promote the restoration and protection of aquifers, springs, streams, rivers, lakes, and riparian systems. Support regulations ensuring minimum in-stream flow and water rights for wildlife resources.</p> <p>Maintain and reestablish habitat and habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Promote habitat connectivity by removing or modifying barriers, protecting corridors and riparian areas, and using wildlife friendly roadway crossing structures.</p> <p>Promote maintenance and restoration of habitat connectivity.</p> <p>Develop standards for modification of existing structures and corridors to reduce impacts to wildlife.</p> <p>Wildlife Management</p> <p>Promote implementation of recovery plans, habitat conservation plans, and other cooperative agreements for sustaining wildlife resources.</p> <p>Manage so as to sustain or enhance sport fish and native fish populations.</p> <p>Maintain and construct new wildlife water developments. Encourage conversion of livestock waters so they are also continuously usable by</p>	<p>DC-WS-1: "Adequate quantity and timing of water flows are maintained in streams, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and wetlands to retain or enhance ecological functions." DC-WS-2: "Riparian corridors are intact and functioning across the landscape. Links between aquatic and upland components are maintained." DC-WS-6: "Wetlands, seeps, springs, wet meadows, and associated wetlands or riparian systems support stable herbaceous and woody vegetative communities." DC-Aquatic-1: "Riparian vegetative communities within aquatic systems are intact and functioning."</p> <p>Obj-25: "Modify or remove at least 3 to 5 miles of fence to prevent impacting pronghorn antelope movement" (alternative C calls for 10 to 15 miles of fence removal).</p> <p>Guide-Lands-2: includes lands that contain important wildlife habitat as a criterion for land acquisition. Guide-Range-2: "Consider the following for structural improvements: implement design features that incorporate wildlife needs and reduce barriers to movement and entrapment hazard; consider wildlife needs in fence placement and design to reduce barriers and hazards to movement and minimize entrapment; remove fencing when it is no longer needed." Guide-Lands-2: "In coordination with general factors to consider in 36 CFR 254.3(1), proposals for acquisition should meet one or more of the following criteria:</p> <p>Lands that contain important wildlife habitat, including that needed for species viability, such as habitat needed to maintain migration patterns or important habitat linkages."</p> <p>DC-WL-1: "Locations of sensitive flora and fauna species are known and secure. Habitats that support these populations are</p>

Goals and Objectives from the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2012-2022	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
<p>wildlife.</p> <p>Collaborate with partners to evaluate sampling techniques, reduce duplication of effort, and develop pathogen decontamination protocols to limit impacts to wildlife.</p> <p>Reduce/eliminate the effects of feral animal populations in sensitive habitats or near wildlife populations of concern.</p> <p>Public education and law enforcement to benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Support prevention and suppression of accidental or arson-caused wildfire through information and education and enforcement of appropriate regulations.</p> <p>Representing Wildlife Values in Multiple-use Planning</p> <p>Promote restoration of natural fire regimes for improving grassland and forest health.</p> <p>Promote adoption of sustainable forage management standards and guidelines for livestock and wildlife.</p> <p>Promote conservation of sensitive areas and habitats for wildlife.</p> <p>Encourage development and implementation guidelines for mining and landfill operations that consider the needs of wildlife resources.</p> <p>Encourage land management agencies to manage road and trail networks to ensure sustainable wildlife resources.</p> <p>Promote programs for eliminating or limiting the spread of invasive plants and animals, and the recovery or reintroduction of native populations.</p> <p>Limit the spread of invasive plants and promote the restoration of native vegetation in disturbed areas.</p>	<p>enhanced to facilitate protection of sensitive flora and fauna species.” Guide-WL-1: “Habitat management objectives and terrestrial species protection measures from approved recovery plans should be applied to activities occurring within federally listed species habitat.” DC-Aquatic-1: “Streams, springs, and wetlands that have potential to support native fish and/or other aquatic species provide quality and quantity of aquatic habitat within the natural range of variability.” Obj-24: “Restore native fish species to 2 to 3 stream reaches.” Obj-13: “Work with partners to maintain and enhance recreational fish opportunities.” Obj-28: “Improve up to 25 existing and 5 new water developments for wildlife” (alternative C includes 5 to 15 water developments). Std-Range-1: “Water troughs shall incorporate escape devices to prevent animal entrapments.” Guide-WL-9: “Water developments or open impoundments, such as those for wildlife, livestock, or mining operations, should incorporate design features to prevent animal entrapments or assist in escape.” Guide-WL-10: “All open top vertical pipes with an inside diameter greater than one inch should incorporate design features to prevent animal entrapments. Examples could include pipe for used for fences, survey markers, building plumbing vents, or sign posts.” Guide-Fish/Aquatics-3: “To prevent the spread of invasive species and fungal disease within aquatic habitats, clean equipment, watercraft, and gear of plant, animal, and mud material before use on the Prescott NF.”</p> <p>DC-Wildlife-1. “Terrestrial habitats are free of or minimally impacted by nonnative or feral species.”</p> <p>DC-Rec-1: “A wide variety of recreational experiences and benefits exist across the Prescott NF landscape to discover and enjoy. Visitors are aware of and comply with forest regulations.” Guide-Interp-1: “Use of opportunities to provide interpretation and education related to the natural work and Prescott NF resources including forest health activities such a fuels management, benefits of wildland fire management, short term restrictions related to wildlife reproduction, ecological importance of riparian systems.”</p> <p>DC-Veg-6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 21, and 22 include desired fire regimes that trend toward natural regimes for grasslands, ponderosa pine, piñon and juniper, and desert communities.</p> <p>Guides-Range-1 to 4 include mitigations for grazing activities.</p> <p>Obj-24, 26, and 27 deal with habitats for native fish species and pronghorn migration habitat.</p> <p>Guide-Locatable Minerals-1: “Minimize disturbance to riparian vegetation.” Guide-Minerals Materials-1: “Adverse effects of aquatic and other riparian dependent resources from mineral material operations should be avoided.” Guide-WL-5 includes mitigations for bats associated with caves or adits.</p> <p>Guide-Trans-3: “Roads and trails should be designed to not impede terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species movement and habitat connectivity.” Guide-Trans-5: “To avoid unintended entrapment, wildlife friendly design for cattle guards should</p>

Goals and Objectives from the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2012-2022	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
	<p>be incorporated for new and replacement installations.”</p> <p>DC-Veg-1: “Native plant communities dominate the landscape, while invasive species are non-existent or in low abundance. Establishment of invasive plant species new to the Prescott NF is prevented.” DC-Aquatic-1: “Aquatic habitats are free of or minimally impacted by nonnative plant and animal species.”</p>

Arizona State Land Department (AZSLD)

The practice of allocating public lands for various beneficiaries in Arizona dates back to the founding of the territory in 1863. The current system of managing these lands, referred to as State Trust lands, was established with the Arizona State Land Department in 1915. Since its inception, the AZSLD has been granted authority over all trust lands as well as the natural products they provide. This authority over trust land is central to the AZSLD’s primary mission of maximizing revenues for its beneficiaries, a role that distinguishes it from other agencies charged with management of public lands (e.g., national parks, national forests, state parks). As of 2008, the AZSLD managed over 9 million acres in land holdings for 14 beneficiaries, the most prominent of which is the K-12 public school system. Most of the State lands can be used for livestock grazing purposes only. Public use of the lands is regulated by permit.

The AZSLD may dispose of (i.e., exchange) or lease the lands for natural resource use or commercial development purposes. The AZSLD prepares a 5-year plan that represents potential areas of concern to initiate land sales and long term leases. As of February 2011, this plan was not available.

Lands under management of the Arizona State Land Department are not public lands and, as such, require a permit to recreate on them. Therefore, the main interaction between the Prescott NF and the AZSLD may be to participate in land exchange or acquisition, or to gain easements or rights-of-way for legal access. Guide-Lands-1 addresses easements and Guide-Lands-2 and Guide-Lands-3 address criteria for land exchange or acquisition.

Arizona State Parks (ASP)

The mission of the Arizona State Parks is to manage and conserve Arizona’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of the people, both in our parks and through our partners (Arizona State Parks, 2010). Arizona State Parks manage several parks across Arizona. Three of these parks are near the Prescott NF: Fort Verde State Park, Dead Horse State Park, and Jerome State Historic Park. Arizona State Parks have seen a continual increase in visitation over the years, with over 1,000,000 visitors in 1985 to over 2,000,000 visitors in 2010 (Arizona State Parks, 2010). The State and National financial crisis impacted the management of State parks. In Fiscal Year 2010, the ASP reduced the number of employees and closed 13 of its 28 parks (Arizona State Parks, 2010).

The 2008 “Arizona Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan” (SCORP) identifies the State’s outdoor recreation priorities. Several action items have the potential to influence NFS lands:

- Look holistically across geographic boundaries, disciplines, governments, private interests, and generations and examine all benefits and costs, not just fiscal costs. (In reference to growth).
- Expand options such as private landowner incentive programs and recreational liability laws, which would allow public access across private and State and Federal leased lands.
- Provide for OHV use on public lands but manage it properly, to reduce conflicts with other recreation users and minimize the activity's impacts on natural and cultural resources, as is done for other recreational activities. Implement standards for constructing sustainable OHV routes; involve user groups in planning, building, and maintaining satisfactory routes and facilities; and enact and enforce consistent OHV laws and regulations.
- State and Federal agencies should implement coordinated interagency planning efforts for new recreational areas and trail systems to ensure an equitable regional distribution of desired recreational opportunities and access to natural environments.

The SCORP also identifies the major impacts and trends related to outdoor recreation in Arizona. Arizona offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities with 6 national forests, 21 national park sites, 8 national wildlife refuges, 8 Bureau of Land Management field offices, 21 American Indian tribes, 30 State parks, 23 State wildlife areas, and hundreds of county and city parks and recreation areas. These public lands provide opportunities for activities such as picnicking, developed and primitive camping, wilderness backpacking, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, boating, water skiing, rock climbing, four-wheel driving, motorized trail biking, all-terrain vehicle riding, and snowmobiling, among others (Arizona State Parks, 2007).

The “Arizona Trails 2010: State Motorized and Nonmotorized Recreation Trails” plan provides information and recommendations to guide Arizona State Parks and other agencies in their management of trails. The priority recommendations for motorized trails are: protect access to trails/acquire land for public access; maintain and renovate existing trails and routes; mitigate and restore damage to areas surrounding trails, routes, and areas; and establish and designate motorized trails, routes, and areas. The priority recommendations for nonmotorized trails are: maintain existing trails; keep trails in good condition; and protect access to trails/acquire land for public access (Arizona State Parks, 2009).

While the revised plan includes direction for the Prescott NF, past history shows that the Prescott NF expects to coordinate among other jurisdictions in trail location and management and motorized transportation planning. In particular, Obj-29, which calls for acting on 10 opportunities to acquire lands, as available and feasible, for open space values, could be partially fulfilled by coordinating with other agencies in expanding the Verde River Greenway. Current coordination activities between communities, agencies and jurisdictions are ongoing. The recreation strategy effort provides a forum for recreation providers and citizens to discuss types of recreation needed and to help determine how providers and interested individuals might best meet demands and provide desired benefits.

Arizona State Forestry Division

The mission of the Arizona State Forestry Division is to manage and reduce wildfire risk to Arizona’s people, communities, and wildland areas, and provide forest resource stewardship through strategic implementation of forest health policies and cooperative forestry assistance programs. The Arizona State Forestry Division provides for the prevention and suppression of wildland fire on 22 million acres of State Trust land and private property located outside incorporated communities.

The 2010 “Arizona Forest Resource Assessment,” gathering input from partner agencies and stakeholders, evaluated the forested landscapes of Arizona and based on present and future forest conditions, trends, and threats, identified priority landscapes and strategies for addressing forest resource issues and opportunities.

Table 30 displays selected goals and objectives from the “Arizona Forest Resource Assessment” and corresponding components of the revised plan.

Table 30. Selected goals and objectives from Arizona Forest Resource Assessment and how the Prescott NF revised plan responds

Collaborative Goals Expressed in Arizona Forest Resource Assessment, 2010	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
People and Forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and communities receive maximum benefits from forests and trees. • Minimum negative impacts to trees and forests. Occur. 	<p>The plan identifies desired conditions for the sustainable use and enjoyment of ecosystems: DC-Veg-1 to 3; DC-Rec-1 and 2; and DC-Open Space-1.</p>
Ecosystem Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient and diverse forest ecosystem structures, processes, and functions. • Progress toward landscape scale outcomes, restoration of unhealthy ecosystems, and enhanced sustainability with negative impacts. 	<p>The plan identifies specific desired conditions and treatment objectives for all vegetation types that address ecosystem structure, processes, and functions under a changing climate: DC-Veg-6 to 23, Objectives-1 to 6.</p>
Water and Air: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved water quality and quantity from forested watersheds. • Improved health and resiliency of forested aquatic systems (riparian areas, springs, and wet meadows). • Increased public understanding of the importance of forests to Arizona’s water quality. • Improved air quality. 	<p>The plan identifies specific desired conditions and treatment objectives to assist with the restoration and maintenance of watershed integrity including water quality, quantity, and timing of flows: DC-Watershed-1 to 6; Objectives-18 to 23, and Objective-31.</p> <p>The plan identifies the conditions desired to assist with keeping smoke and dust emissions below National standards, protecting airshed visibility, and promoting public support for wildland fire management programs: DC-Airshed-1.</p>
Fire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildland ecosystems with appropriate fire regimes maintain health and resiliency of natural vegetation. 	<p>The plan identifies specific desired conditions and treatment objectives for all vegetation types and wildland-urban interface areas: DC-Veg-6 to 23, Objectives-1 to 6.</p> <p>Wildland fire standards and guidelines provide guidance for trending toward or achieving ecosystem desired</p>

Collaborative Goals Expressed in Arizona Forest Resource Assessment, 2010	How the Prescott NF Revised Plan Responds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fire Adapted Communities” that provide shared stakeholder responsibility for healthy landscapes and wildfire prepared communities. • Enhanced wildland fire management capacity in Arizona. • An Arizona public and government leadership that is well informed about wildland fire management, science, and prevention issues. 	<p>conditions with an emphasis on the protection of life and property: Std-Wildland Fire-1 and 2; Guides-Wildland Fire-1 to 10.</p>
<p>Economics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realized long term economic potential of sustainable forest products and bioenergy. • Protection of areas with economic development potential related to ecosystem services. • Community recognition of the economic importance of protecting healthy natural systems. 	<p>The plan identifies desired conditions and guidelines for all vegetation types that include restoration and maintenance of healthy ecosystems while providing for the sustainable use of those ecosystems. Sustainable uses, including livestock grazing, firewood cutting, and timber harvest that contribute to the social, economic, and cultural structure and stability of communities: DC-Veg-1 to 3.</p>
<p>Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased resilience of ecosystems to climate change. • Reduced rate of future climate change through maximized carbon sequestration. • Broad public and community understanding of climate change science. 	<p>The plan identifies a set of desired conditions to assist with building ecosystem resilience and adaptive capacity for plant and animal communities to accommodate trends of a changing climate: DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1.</p>

Federal Agencies

Federal agencies influencing or bordering on the Prescott NF include the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); the Westwide Corridor programmatic decision; the Upper Agua Fria National Monument and the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Planning Area (both managed by the Bureau of Land Management); and the Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto NFs. In this section the FHWA, FWS, and the Westwide Corridor will be addressed separately; however, the areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service will be introduced separately, but interactions addressed together.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

The role of the Federal Highway Administration is to ensure that America’s roads and highways are safe and technologically up-to-date. Although most highways are owned by State, local, and tribal governments, FHWA provides financial and technical support. The Federal Lands Highways funding provides dollars for roads and highways within federally owned lands, such as national forests.

The Central Federal Lands Highway division, of which Arizona is a part, is in the process of developing its long-range transportation plan. The planning effort has identified two major trends: (1) Arizona population is increasing primarily in urban areas and (2) forest visitation and

recreation is increasing as a result of population increase. Within Arizona, 12 percent of the paved forest highway network is rated as poor or failed, while 7 percent of the unpaved network is rated as poor or failed, and 3 percent of the bridges are in poor condition.

Within or near the Prescott NF, the need for an Eastern Corridor Study for a possible controlled access facility was identified by the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO). A CYMPO regional transportation plan (2006) showed the possible corridor stretching from Interstate-17 north of Highway 69, across Highway 169, crossing the edge of the Prescott NF until it reached Highway 89 north of Chino Valley.

There are citizen and national forest concerns about the possible crossing of the national wild and scenic eligible upper Verde River (see CYMPO Regional Transportation Study, 2006 in Table 1 above). Prescott NF revised plan includes DC-Wild and Scenic-1 and Std-W&S-2 that apply to conditions on the upper Verde River. In addition, alternative D includes the Muldoon Potential Wilderness Area as recommended wilderness. There could be conflicts between the possible route and maintenance of wilderness character if that alternative were selected.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's main role is to administer the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Section 7 (1)(1) of the ESA directs Federal agencies to aid in conservation of listed species and section 7 (1)(2) requires that agencies, through consultation with the FWS, ensure that their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat. As projects and activities are planned, forest managers consult with the FWS.

The FWS issues national policies to promote the conservation and recovery of listed species, including species recovery plans. The FWS is in the process of developing a strategic plan to react to climate change. The Prescott NF revised plan includes Guide-WL-1 and Guide-Fish/Aquatics-1 that call for incorporation of requirements included in current recovery plans for federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plant and wildlife species as management activities are carried out.

In 2005, a regionwide amendment to all forest plans and FWS biological opinions was completed. In May 2010, the Forest Service within the Southwestern Region (Arizona and New Mexico) re-initiated consultation on the regionwide amendment. A tiered consultation from the FWS consisting of a biological opinion and conference opinion was completed in March of 2012 related to forest plans originally completed in the 1980s.

Between draft and final versions of the plan, the Prescott NF engaged in formal consultation with FWS and prepared a biological assessment in February 2014 of the final revised plan (alternative E). The biological assessment analyzed, in greater detail, the potential impacts alternative E would have on federally listed wildlife species and their habitats. As part of the consultation process, FWS issued a biological opinion of the assessment in July 2014.

On November 24, 2014 the Prescott NF submitted a letter to the FWS requesting conversion of the conference opinion to a BO for the yellow-billed cuckoo based on its federal listing changing from proposed to threatened. On December 22, 2014 the Prescott NF received a letter from the FWS granting the request to convert the conference opinion to a BO for the yellow-billed cuckoo. FWS also recommended that the Prescott NF wait until the northern Mexican and narrow-headed

gartersnakes and yellow-billed cuckoo respective proposed critical habitats are finally designated before concluding consultation on the habitats under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management: Westwide Corridor

In November of 2008, a programmatic decision was reached to establish corridors for the preferred location of future oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities on Federal lands in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. This was required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in order to improve coordination among agencies and expedite applications to construct or modify such facilities. In Arizona, 650 miles of corridor were identified with 81 percent incorporating existing utility and transportation rights-of-way. Within the Prescott NF, multimodal corridor segment 61-207 crosses the Prescott NF from south to north from about 0.75 mile northeast of Dewey, to the northern forest boundary just west of County Road 173 (Vol. III Department of Energy EIS, 2008).

There are two areas where the Prescott NF revised plan interacts with the Westwide Corridor programmatic decision. The first relates to location of power lines and pipelines. Desired Condition DC-Lands-1 states that power lines and pipelines are located and co-located with existing corridors when compatible. Guide-Lands-5 includes the following guidance: “New energy proposals should be located within existing corridors, including the Westwide Corridor, unless valid concerns about the reliability and integrity of the State’s electrical grid indicate otherwise.” The second interaction relates to the “Upper Verde River Eligibility Report Update for the National Wild and Scenic River System” (2011). The existing Arizona Public Service power line and the Westwide Corridor make up the boundary between two river segments: (a) segment 2 is classified as wild, including an essentially primitive area that is inaccessible except by trail and (b) segment 3 is classified as scenic, including areas where some structures may be seen, the river is accessible by roads, and roads may occasionally bridge the river. By acting as a boundary between segments, more flexibility is provided for potential future applications for construction or modification.

Bureau of Land Management: Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

On January 11, 2000, Presidential Proclamation 7263 created the Agua Fria National Monument to ensure protection of an extraordinary array of scientific and historic resources. The Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) is located in southeastern Yavapai County, Arizona, and contains 70,900 acres of BLM-administered lands and 1,444 acres of private land. The decisions in the approved resource management plan (RMP) only apply to the BLM-administered lands within the AFNM. The Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area encompasses lands north and west of Phoenix and south and west of the Prescott NF in west-central Arizona. The area includes remote and undeveloped zones of desert and mountain ranges, as well as urban interface zones near Buckeye, Phoenix, Prescott, Wickenburg, and other communities. These lands sustain a wide range of activities and resources.

Coconino National Forest

The approximately 2 million-acre Coconino National Forest (Coconino NF) is located in north-central Arizona at the southern end of the Colorado Plateau. It is located east of the Prescott NF, and the Verde River and Sycamore Creek provide the boundary between the two national forests. The Coconino NF is also revising its land management plan and working drafts of this plan 2011-2014 were used as a comparison with the Prescott NF revised plan. The needs for change in the Coconino NF revised plan focus on recreation, community and forest interaction, and maintenance and improvement of ecosystem health.

Kaibab National Forest

The Kaibab National Forest (Kaibab NF) is broken into three geographically separate ranger districts. They are found both north and south of Grand Canyon National Park and near Williams, AZ. The most southern district is the Williams Ranger District which shares a boundary with the Prescott NF north of Drake and Perkinsville. Vegetation types in the area primarily include piñon-juniper woodlands. The 2014 “Land and Resource Management Plan for the Kaibab NF” was used to determine interactions between guidance found in the Prescott NF revised plan and the Kaibab NF revised plan.

Tonto National Forest

The Tonto National Forest (Tonto NF) covers approximately 3 million acres of land. It stretches from Mesa to Strawberry and from Cave Creek to Globe. The Cave Creek Ranger District shares a border with the Prescott NF. The Cave Creek Ranger District includes a portion of Pine Mountain Wilderness, a portion of Mazatzal Wilderness, portions of the Wild and Scenic Verde River, and Horseshoe and Bartlett Recreation Areas. The balance of the district is under general multiple-use management. This area is approximately half Sonoran desert and half chaparral vegetation type. The 1986 “Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan” and its more recent amendments were used to determine interactions between management on the Tonto NF and the Prescott NF revised plan.

Comparison of Federal Resource Management Plans

After review of plans, questions were developed related to need for coordination between land management agencies. Each question is answered in table 31 and interactions of the various plans are identified. No conflicts were identified that may require additional alternatives.

Table 31. Comparison of Federal resource management plans

Questions to Determine Landscape Interactions	Interactions Between the Prescott NF Revised plan and Neighboring Land Management Agencies
How is direction coordinated for the designated wild and scenic segments of the Verde River?	The Coconino, Prescott, and Tonto NFs coordinated on preparation of the Verde Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Each of these national forests referenced this coordinated plan in standards and guidelines within their current or proposed land management plans.

Questions to Determine Landscape Interactions	Interactions Between the Prescott NF Revised plan and Neighboring Land Management Agencies
What other rivers are considered eligible for national wild and scenic designation and how do they interact?	<p>The upper Verde River is eligible for national wild and scenic river designation, and classifications were developed by the Prescott NF in coordination with the Coconino NF which borders a portion of the upper Verde River on the east. Guidance for river management resides in the Prescott NF plan. The Coconino NF determined a wild classification for Sycamore Creek that flows into the upper Verde River.</p> <p>Three segments of the Agua Fria River, determined by the BLM as suitable for designation to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, are to be maintained in free-flowing conditions and managed to protect their outstandingly remarkable scenic, fish, wildlife, and cultural resource values. While the Agua Fria River does not flow through the Prescott NF, upstream tributaries like Ash Creek and Lynx Creek ultimately flow into the Agua Fria. Eight stream segments have been determined by the BLM to be eligible for consideration as to their suitability as additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Ash Creek (1.1 miles) and Little Ash Creek (2.7 miles) are among those.</p>
Is wilderness character affected by guidance found in Federal agency plans?	<p>The Prescott NF revised plan includes eight recommended wilderness areas. Sycamore Canyon A recommended wilderness area is adjacent to the designated Sycamore Canyon Wilderness that overlaps the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott NFs. Desired conditions for recommended wilderness do not conflict between the two forests. The Kaibab NF includes a group size restriction of 12 people and a pack animal maximum of 15 animals per group in standards and guidelines for both designated and recommended wilderness; the Prescott NF includes restrictions of 15 people and a pack animal maximum of 10 animals per group in standards and guidelines.</p> <p>The Prescott NF recommended wilderness area called Castle Creek Contiguous (east of Castle Creek Wilderness) is adjacent to BLM lands. These BLM lands are allocated to retain wilderness characteristics in the BLM Black Canyon Management Unit of the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Planning Area. The Castle Creek Contiguous area along with Castle Creek Wilderness and BLM wilderness character lands increase the value of wilderness characteristics of areas across both jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Agua Fria National Monument identifies an area allocated to retaining wilderness characteristics along and east of the Agua Fria River in the southern portion of the monument. Three corridors identified as passage recreation management area zones provide access to the area. Passage recreation management area zones are areas where visitor use is not directed but is accommodated and focuses on designated motorized travel. The Prescott NF is not expected to have any impact on this area.</p>
Are opportunities for recreational trails and recreational settings affected by other plans?	<p>Recreation opportunity settings are similar between the southern portion of the Crown King Management Area, within the Prescott NF, and that shown in map 14 for the Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area.</p> <p>Both the Kaibab and Prescott NFs classify lands along their shared boundary as semiprimitive nonmotorized or semiprimitive motorized in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). That is, dirt roads are relatively far apart with area between roads that is accessible by foot; there is a low likelihood of seeing other people.</p> <p>The boundary area between the Prescott and the Tonto NFs is primarily made up of designated wilderness; the area on both forests not designated as wilderness provides settings classified as semiprimitive nonmotorized and semiprimitive motorized.</p> <p>The Verde River provides most of the boundary between the Coconino and Prescott NFs. By having a natural boundary, visitors can more easily differentiate between management styles. Settings within the Verde Valley vary from urban environments</p>

Questions to Determine Landscape Interactions	Interactions Between the Prescott NF Revised plan and Neighboring Land Management Agencies
	within towns and cities to semiprimitive nonmotorized settings near Black Canyon where the likelihood of interacting with other people is rare. Motorized use on all the national forests is allowed on designated trails, roads, and areas as indicated by each forest's motor vehicle use map.
How well is scenery management coordinated across Federal land management agencies?	Within the Verde Valley, both the Coconino and Prescott NFs desired condition descriptions call for maintaining the scenic backdrop that provides value to Verde Valley communities.
How well is motorized big game retrieval coordinated across AZGFD game management units?	The Prescott NF revised plan uses language consistent with the Williams Ranger District Travel Management Decision to guide the use of motorized game retrieval forestwide. The Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott NFs all share part of AZGFD Game Unit 8. The Coconino NF deferred to the Kaibab NF guidelines for motorized game retrieval within AZGFD Game Unit 8.
Is management of nonnative invasive plant species coordinated across Federal land management agencies?	<p>The Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott NFs identify the desire for domination of the landscape with native plant communities while invasive species are non-existent or in low abundance. These forests also reference appendix B of the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for Integrated Treatment of Noxious or Invasive Weeds" (2005) related to direction for treatment of nonnative invasive plant species.</p> <p>The current Tonto NF plan includes few references to nonnative invasive species. The Agua Fria National Monument and Harquehala Resource Management Plans include desired conditions describing maintenance of diverse viable populations of native plants while the impact of invasive species on native ecosystems is reduced from current levels. They also include management actions such as emphasizing use of native species for restoring or rehabilitating disturbed areas and carrying out control efforts in cooperation and collaboration with weed management associations or other organizations.</p>
Are vegetation desired conditions and management direction coordinated across boundaries?	<p>Grassland vegetation guidance of the Agua Fria National Monument is similar to that found in the Semi-Desert Grasslands Potential Natural Vegetation Type (PNVT) for the southeastern portion of the Prescott NF. In other parts of BLM managed lands, upland vegetation is managed to consist of a mix of native perennial grass and ground cover adequate to improve wildlife habitat and a long term stable population of columnar cacti and paniculate agave where ecological potential exists.</p> <p>The Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott NFs used the Forest Service Southwestern Region process for identification of PNVTs and participated in identifying coordinated desired conditions for each PNVT found on the national forests. The Tonto NF, Cave Creek Ranger District, manages vegetation with a primary emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement, livestock forage production, and dispersed recreation.</p>
How well are areas identified for managed wildland fire coordinated among Federal land management agencies?	<p>In the two BLM resource management plans, areas identified as appropriate for managed wildland fire are found in the eastern part of the Upper Agua Fria National Monument adjacent to similarly appropriate areas on the Prescott NF. Areas appropriate for managed wildland fire south of Crown King include a 1 to 2-mile-wide corridor next to the boundary between the Prescott NF and Castle Hot Springs Management Unit.</p> <p>The Kaibab NF plan indicates that the whole forest may sustain managed wildland fire. The Prescott NF indicates that managed wildlife fire can be appropriate in the area next to the Kaibab NF boundary and on a case-by-case basis in the Prescott NF portion of the Verde Valley next to the Coconino NF.</p> <p>The Coconino NF desired conditions indicate that wildfires can be managed across most of the landscape for resource benefits. The Prescott NF, Tonto NF, and BLM</p>

Questions to Determine Landscape Interactions	Interactions Between the Prescott NF Revised plan and Neighboring Land Management Agencies
	Resource Management Plans call for protecting the Sonoran desert from fire.
How well are habitat improvements to provide migration habitat for pronghorn coordinated?	Pronghorn movement corridors are generally mapped for the Agua Fria National Monument. They are located adjacent to the Prescott NF within areas identified as Semi-Desert Grassland. Prescott NF Obj-27 calls for treatment within pronghorn migration habitat that is found near the monument. Obj-1 calls for burning within desert grasslands to trend toward historic disturbance intervals and to improve grassland value for wildlife. Coconino NF desired conditions call for free movement of wildlife across the forest and across forest boundaries to access adjoining habitat. Kaibab NF desired conditions call for habitat interconnectedness to allow for movement of wide ranging species, and habitat configuration allows for movement of wildlife populations to promote genetic flow.

Tribes

Six tribal groups within Arizona have connections with the Prescott NF: the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, the Tonto-Apache Tribe, the Yavapai-Apache Nation, and the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe.

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation lands occupy a rectangular shaped piece of land measuring 4 miles east to west and 10 miles north to south. Located in northeastern Maricopa County, the reservation is bisected by the southerly flowing Verde River. Economic enterprises operated by the nation include: Fort McDowell Casino, Fort McDowell Tribal Farm, Fort McDowell Yavapai Materials, Fort McDowell Adventures, Radisson Resort and Conference Center at Fort McDowell, and the We-Ke-Pa Golf Club (NAU, 2011).

Hopi Tribe

The Hopi Tribe's main land base is located in the northeastern section of Arizona with a total area of approximately 1.6 million acres. The area consists of low lying deserts, gullies, buttes, and mesas, rising as high as 7,200 feet. Most of the reservation is open land and is used for community, religious, farming, business, and livestock purposes. The scarcity of water is a limiting factor in future economic or agricultural development. The Hopi manage a 200-acre industrial park site in Winslow (NAU, 2011).

Hualapai Tribe

The Hualapai Reservation encompasses about 1 million acres along 108 miles of the Grand Canyon. The Hualapai Department of Natural Resources operates a wildlife, fisheries, and parks program; prepared a Watershed Management Plan (2006); prepared a Fire Management Plan (2002); and has a Forest Management Plan (1990 to 2000) that is now being revised. The overall goal of the Hualapai Department of Natural Resources is to produce long term, sustainable, balanced, multiple use of natural resources under the direction of the Hualapai Tribal Council.

The fire management plan includes goals to: (1) protect human safety and property while managing timber and range resources sustainably; (2) maintain adequate air and water quality; and (3) reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire. The 2006 Watershed Management Plan includes identification of non-point source pollution sources and associated mitigation actions to improve water quality in the Colorado River and within the Truxton Wash and the Upper Gila watersheds. The tribe is actively managing endangered native fish by operation of an endangered fish rearing facility. Elk have been transported to the area and a big game hunting program is active. (Hualapai Department of Natural Resources, 2011).

Grand Canyon West on the Hualapai Reservation is at the west rim of the Grand Canyon. The enterprise offers tour packages that include views from the “Skywalk” (i.e., a glass viewing area that enables visitors to walk beyond the rim of the Grand Canyon), helicopter and boat tours, and other excursions on the reservation.

Tonto-Apache Tribe

The Tonto-Apache Tribe is located in northwestern Gila County approximately 95 miles northeast of Phoenix. Consisting of 85 acres, the reservation is south of and adjacent to the community of Payson. The amount of tribal land ownership will increase upon acquiring an additional 240 acres of land from the Forest Service. The tribe’s economic enterprises include Mazatzal Casino, Paysonglo Lodge, Marble Slab Creamery, and the Tonto-Apache Tribal Market and Smoke Shop (NAU, 2011).

Yavapai-Apache Nation

The Yavapai-Apache Reservation is located in the Verde River valley in central Yavapai County. The 636-acre reservation is made up of five separate parcels of land. Topographic features of the Middle Verde Reservation include intermittent streams, terraces adjacent to the river, and rich flood plain soil deposits. The nation operates the Cliff Castle Casino, the Lodge at Cliff Castle, and the Conference Center at Cliff Castle near Montezuma Castle National Monument. Yavapai-Apache Nation Native Visions offers scenic van tours, horseback riding, and a gift shop. Other businesses include Yavapai-Apache Construction, a sand and rock business, and farming/ranching (NAU, 2011).

Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

The Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe is located adjacent to the city of Prescott in central Yavapai County. The reservation is topographically diverse, ranging from the relatively flat Granite Creek area to mountainous terrain north of the residential area and west of U.S. Highway 89. Today the tribal economy is tied to the economy of the Prescott community which focuses on tourism and retail sales and services. The tribe owns and operates the Sundog Industrial Park, Frontier Village Shopping Center, Bucky’s Casino, and the Prescott Resort and Conference Center (NAU, 2011).

Interaction Between the Prescott National Forest Revised plan and Tribes

With the exception of the Hualapai Department of Natural Resources plans, natural resource plans for those groups who have a connection with the Prescott NF were not available. However, Prescott NF plan guidance could interact with economic and social needs of some of the tribes.

The groups most affected could be those located near the Prescott NF or those most economically and culturally tied to the area. Portions of plan guidance that interact with these groups include the following:

- Desired conditions and objectives for recreation, transportation, and facilities provide a description of future recreation opportunities. This information, such as descriptions of desired trail conditions, will affect the quality of recreation that visitors experience and indirectly may increase the number of visitors to business ventures provided by the tribes or nations.
- Desired conditions and objectives developed to help trend toward desired conditions related to open space and scenic values could provide the same type of benefit to tribal groups.
- Desired conditions for heritage (DC-Heritage-1 and 2) express the Prescott NF's intent to preserve and protect historic and prehistoric sites including American Indian sacred places and traditional cultural properties, places, and areas. In addition, they state that use of forest products by affiliated American Indian nations, tribes, and communities is expected to be available for traditional practices.
- One of the outstandingly remarkable values of the portion of the upper Verde River that is eligible for national wild and scenic designation is its cultural resource values. This river will be retained in free-flowing condition and its outstandingly remarkable values, including cultural resource values, will be protected.

References

- Arizona Department of Agriculture. (2010). Annual Report FY2009-2010. Phoenix, AZ.
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. (2011). About Us. Phoenix, AZ.
www.azdeq.gov/function/about/index.html
- Arizona Department of Transportation. (2010). 2010 Statewide Planning Framework. 9.0 Final Role Out of the Statewide Framework. Phoenix, AZ.
www.bqaz.gov/StatewideTransportationPlanningFramework.asp
- Arizona Department of Transportation. (2010). Arizona State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fiscal Years 2010-2013. Phoenix, AZ.
www.azdot.gov/MPD/Priority_Programming/index.asp
- Arizona Department of Water Resources. (2011). Mission and Goals. Phoenix, Arizona.
www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/PublicInformationOfficer/MissionAndGoals.htm
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. (2006). Arizona's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: 2005-2015. Phoenix, AZ.
www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/w_c/cwcs/downloads/CWCS_Final_May2006.pdf
- Arizona Game and Fish Department. (2007). Wildlife 2012 Strategic Plan. Phoenix, Arizona.
www.azgfd.gov/inside_azgfd/documents/Wildlife2012forWeb.pdf
- Arizona State Forestry Division. (2010). Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy. Phoenix, AZ.
www.azsf.az.gov/userfiles/file/Arizona%20Forest%20Resource%20Assessment-2010.pdf

- Arizona State Land Department. (2011). Real Estate Division. Phoenix, AZ.
www.land.state.az.us/programs/realestate/futureDisp.htm
- Arizona State Land Department. (2011). State Land Department Historical Overview. Phoenix, AZ. www.land.state.az.us/history.htm
- Arizona State Parks. (2007). Arizona 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Phoenix, AZ.
- Arizona State Parks. (2009). Arizona Trails 2010: A Statewide Motorized and Nonmotorized Recreational Trails Plan. Phoenix, AZ.
- Arizona State Parks. (2010). Arizona State Parks FY09/10 Annual Report July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010. Phoenix, AZ.
- Ash Fork Development Association and the Community of Ash Fork. (2004). Ash Fork Action Plan II. Ash Fork, AZ. August 2004.
- Bureau of Land Management. (2010). Agua Fria National Monument Resource Management Plan. Phoenix, AZ. www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/afria-bradshaw-final.html
- Bureau of Land Management. (2010). Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan. Phoenix, AZ. www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/planning/afria-bradshaw-final.html
- City of Cottonwood. (2003). Cottonwood General Plan 2003 – 2013. Cottonwood, AZ.
www.ci.cottonwood.az.us/genplan.php
- City of Prescott Valley and citizen volunteers. (2002). Prescott Valley General Plan 2020. Prescott Valley, AZ. www.pvaz.net/index.aspx?page=137
- City of Prescott. (2003). Prescott General Plan. Prescott, AZ.
www.cityofprescott.net/_d/general_plan_051804.pdf
- Coconino County Community Development Department. (2003). Coconino County Comprehensive Plan. Flagstaff, AZ. www.coconino.az.gov/comdev.aspx?id=142
- Community Sciences Corporation In Association with Dava & Associates; Lima & Associates. (2006). The Verde Valley Regional Land Use Plan. Yavapai County, AZ.
www.co.yavapai.az.us/Content.aspx?id=34544
- Department of Energy and Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. (2008). Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States. Final Volume I: Summary and Main Text and Final Volume III: Map Atlas Map E8. Washington, DC.
- Federal Highway Administration. (2011). Who We Are. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. www.fhwa.dot.gov/whoweare/whoweare.htm
- Fish and Wildlife Service. (2011). Consultations – Overview. Department of the Interior. www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/consultations-overview.html
- Forest Service. (1985). Tonto National Forest Plan. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southwestern Region.
www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tonto/landmanagement/?cid=fsbdev3_018762

- Forest Service. (2010). Kaibab National Forest Proposed Land Management Plan. Williams, AZ: Kaibab National Forest.
www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5154723.pdf
- Forest Service. (2011). Coconino National Forest Draft Land Management Plan. Flagstaff, AZ: Coconino National Forest. www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/plan-revision.shtml
- Forest Service. (2011). Upper Verde River Eligibility Report Update for the National Wild and Scenic River System. Prescott, AZ: Prescott National Forest.
www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/planrevision/docs-conc-proc/conc-proc-wsr.pdf
- Hualapai Department of Natural Resources. (2002). 2002 Fire Management Plan. Peach Springs, AZ: Hualapai Tribe.
- Hualapai Department of Natural Resources. (2006). 2006 Watershed Management Plan. Peach Springs, AZ: Hualapai Tribe.
- Hualapai Department of Natural Resources. (2011). Organization and Mission. Peach Springs, AZ: Hualapai Tribe.
- Interagency Fire and Emergency Management Group of the Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission. (2004). Yavapai Communities Wildfire Protection Plan. Prescott, AZ. www.pawuic.org/
- Lima and Associates. (2007). Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization Regional Transportation Study. Prescott, AZ.
www.cympo.com/pdf/2030/01242011_FINAL_REPORT_SAFETEA-LU_AMENDMENT_2007.pdf
- Northern Arizona University, Center for American Indian Economic Development. (2011). Flagstaff, AZ. www.cba.nau.edu/caied/tribepages/Tribes.asp
- Paulden Area Community Association and the Residents of the Paulden Area. (2007). Paulden Community Plan. Paulden, AZ.
- Prescott Area Wildland-urban Interface Commission. (2004). Prescott Basin Community Protection and Economic Development Plan. Prescott, AZ.
- Town Council of Chino Valley. (2003). Town of Chino Valley General Plan. Chino Valley, AZ.
www.chinoaz.net/dev_services/generalplan.shtml
- Town of Camp Verde. (2004). Camp Verde General Plan. Camp Verde, AZ.
www.campverde.az.gov/government/town-clerk/documents/
- Town of Clarkdale. (2002). General Plan Program 2002. Clarkdale, AZ.
www.clarkdale.az.us/2002GeneralPlan/generalplan.pdf
- Town of Dewey-Humboldt. (2009). Town of Dewey-Humboldt 2009 General Plan. Dewey-Humboldt, AZ.
- Town of Dewey-Humboldt. (2010). Town of Dewey-Humboldt Open Space and Trails Plan. Dewey Humboldt, AZ.
- Yavapai County. (2003). Yavapai County General Plan. Prescott, AZ.
- Yavapai County. (2012). Yavapai County's 2012 Comprehensive Draft Plan.

Appendix D. Comment Letters Submitted by Government Agencies

This section reproduces in their entirety, the correspondence submitted by government agencies during the formal comment period (September 2012 to November 2012) for the draft revised plan and DEIS. This section only contains those comment letters that were submitted. Specific comments received were analyzed and addressed in the responses to comments in appendix A.

The government agencies providing comment include:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- State of Arizona, Game and Fish Department
- Yavapai County Development Services



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 9, 2012

Corbin Newman
Regional Forester
333 Broadway Blvd., SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona.
(CEQ# 20120274)

Dear Mr. Newman:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Project) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

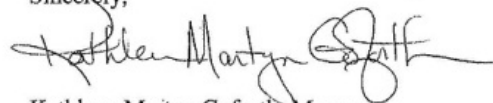
Based on our review of the DEIS, we have rated all action alternatives (B, C, D) and the document as LO-1, Lack of Objections – Adequate (see enclosed EPA Rating Definitions). The EPA commends the Forest Service for its commitment to vegetation restoration and adaptive management strategies for climate change as proposed in the Project. We recognize the need for the use of mechanical thinning and prescribed fire and wildfire to achieve long-term restoration objectives. We also commend the Forest Service for committing, in the proposed alternative, to wilderness designations and private land acquisition to preserve open space and enhance the human environment. We would also like to acknowledge the thorough description, throughout the DEIS, of the possible effects of climate change in regards to ecosystem resilience and the need for adaptation to climate change, and the commitment, through the proposed alternative, to mitigate these effects.

We support the ongoing consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, (SHPO) and encourage the Forest Service to include Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) in consultation, as appropriate.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this DEIS. We also appreciate the Forest Service's coordination with us during our review via phone to discuss the project. When the FEIS is released, please send one hard copy and one CD to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or have your staff contact James Munson, the lead reviewer for this project. James can be reached at (415) 972-3800 or munson.james@epa.gov.

Please note that as of October 1, 2012, EPA Headquarters no longer accepts paper copies or CDs of EISs for official filing purposes. Submissions on or after October 1, 2012, must be made through the EPA's new electronic EIS submittal tool: e-NEPA. To begin using e-NEPA, you must first register with the EPA's electronic reporting site - https://cdx.epa.gov/epa_home.asp. Electronic submission does not change requirements for distribution of EISs for public review and comment, and lead agencies should still provide one hard copy of each Draft and Final EIS released for public circulation to the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco (Mail Code: CED-2).

Sincerely,



Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office

Enclosure:

Summary of the EPA Rating System

Cc:

Mary C. Rasmussen, Forest Planner
344 South Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Phoenix District
Hassayampa Field Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027
www.blm.gov/az/

NOV 12 2012



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (P010)

Ms. Betty Matthews
Forest Supervisor, Prescott National Forest
USDA Forest Service
344 South Cortez Street
Prescott, Arizona 86303

Dear Ms. Matthews:

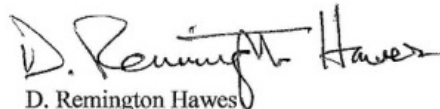
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appreciates the opportunity to review and provide input on the draft Prescott National Forest LRMP Revision. With the amount of public interest in and use of the Forest and public lands in the area, it's imperative that our two agencies work together towards more seamless management of these lands. The Bradshaw and Verde Ranger Districts have a common boundary with the Hassayampa Field Office.

We have mutual issues where aligning our planning should prove beneficial. The issues include travel management in the southern Bradshaw Mountains and North Lake Pleasant area, growing recreational use of the Black Canyon National Recreation Trail and other recreation assets in the Black Canyon Corridor area. The BLM Agua Fria National Monument, managed by our office, is concerned with land tenure and management of land health and habitat in the Agua Fria Grasslands.

In 2010, the BLM completed the Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Hassayampa Field Office area, and the Agua Fria National Monument RMP for the Monument. These plans benefitted from the years of coordination we received from the Forest Service, and we continue to seek and benefit from your input as we address projects and work on activity level plans for travel management, recreation, land restoration and habitat improvement. Our assessment of the draft LRMP is that it is a good plan, and we offer just a few comments, which are enclosed. Our comments are mostly related to travel, access, connectivity, and consistency along our shared boundaries. These comments are based upon the public land resource allocations and decisions contained within our RMPs. I'm confident that we can address these and other issues by continuing and increasing our communication and coordination between agencies.

If you need clarification of our comments or further information, please don't hesitate to contact Tom Bickaaskas, a Natural Resource Specialist, who can answer any questions or direct you to others in our office as needed. Tom may be reached at 623-580-5502 or tbickaas@blm.gov.

Sincerely,


D. Remington Hawes
Field Manager

Enclosure

BLM Hassayampa Field Office - Comments on PNF Draft LRMP 11-8-12

Page	Comment
44	DC-Rec2 Trails The second to last bullet could be more proactive and work in a seamless manner with BLM. Current text "Alternate access is available where changes in land ownership or increased development have eliminated historic access to the national forest.". Consider the following, which would be consistent with Hassayampa Field Office's Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP. Action TM-19 "Easements or rights-of-way across key private and State administered lands will be acquired to ensure long term network viability and public access. Easements or rights-of-way actions will be undertaken when: route system effectiveness is or would be adversely affected by outside actions; opportunity becomes available and the action is consistent with recreation settings and goals; recreation and resource disciplines need public and / or administrative access to sites; portal access is desired to support resource objectives of safety and sustainability.
92	Crown King Management Area In the description of the area, Lake Pleasant Recreation Area is mentioned. This is good to recognize and while BLM does not manage a lot of the Crown King Trail (711), we recognize its importance to central Arizona history and backcountry driving experiences. There is a lot of recreation occurring along the common boundary west of Bumble Bee / Cleator which could be mentioned. Then in DC-CK MA-1, add the Bumble Bee and Cleator communities with Crown King as benefiting local economies (3rd bullet).
93	DC-CK MA-2 Last bullet refers to maintaining FR711 in a rough, high clearance manner. A group called the Bradshaw Foothills Coalition had approached the PNF about making an level 2 road connection possible from I-17 through the BLM Table Mesa Recreation Area. It would require widening Trail 233 near Lane Mtn and connecting it to BLM lands where the road is currently on the decommission list. BLM is amenable to this concept if the PNF is interested in making this connection a desired condition.
93	DC-CK MA-2 BLM is interested in connecting non-motor/non-mechanized trails on the south end of Castle Creek Wilderness (ie trail 235, 236). Making connectivity of trails from BLM lands would be consistent with BLM's RMP (RR-77, WC-22)
147	Map 5 Special areas Recommended wilderness area named Castle Creek Contiguous may be consistent with BLM's adjacent areas managed for wilderness character with modification. There is a caveat for a north-south motorized route in BLM's plan that would not be possible without management on the PNF side. RMP action WC-18 states "Maintain and enhance non-motorized and primitive recreation experiences, tied to open space and natural landscapes. The desired recreation setting is semi-primitive non-motorized. Manage the motorized segment of the Black Canyon Trail, which crossed this allocation, as a semi-primitive motorized corridor. This trail is multi-use, open to both motorized and non-motorized users."
147	Map 5 Special areas It is not clear if the Castle Creek trail would be accessible if the Castle Creek Contiguous RWA is implemented. BLM is not planning a trailhead to access this trail from Bumble Bee, however, the primitive road going to the Castle Creek cabin site is likely to remain open when route designation occurs.
unknown	grazing Comments from NEPA coordinator re: livestock grazing phase out -- the plan indicates that the alternative considered to phase out livestock grazing is inconsistent with law. Is that sufficient to not consider reduced grazing? Are standards and guides (outlined in the appendices) being met? If so, rationale outlining as such might be warranted in the description for why the alternative was removed from detailed analysis.

Ltr#0081



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Pacific Southwest Region
333 Bush Street, Suite 515
San Francisco, CA 94104

IN REPLY REFER TO:
ER# 12/604

Electronically Filed

28 November 2012

Mary C. Rasmussen, Forest Planner
Prescott National Forest
Attention: Plan Revision
344 South Cortez Street
Prescott, Arizona 86303

Subject: Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the United States Forest Service, Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Yavapai and Coconino Counties, Arizona.

Dear Ms. Rasmussen:

The Department of the Interior has received and reviewed the subject documents and has the following comments to offer.

Comments on the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP):

Morafka's Desert Tortoise

Both the draft LRMP and DEIS refer to the Morafka's desert tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*). Please note that the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) uses the common name Sonoran desert tortoise (per discussion on page 77 of "Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, With Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding" Seventh Edition (Crothers et al. 2012)).

We suggest the LRMP also refer to the species as Sonoran desert tortoise to avoid confusion.

Needs for Change - Aquatic Species

The draft LRMP states one of its main needs for change is to restore habitat for native fish and other aquatic species in watersheds on the Prescott National Forest (Prescott NF) and identifies

Ltr#0081

the State of Arizona as a partner in addressing control of non-native species. We agree with and fully support such efforts to restore habitat for native aquatic species. We would like to continue to work with the Prescott NF on the management of native aquatic species and their habitat, and encourage the Prescott NF to work in partnership with the FWS on these efforts.

Desired Conditions for Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak Forest

On the Prescott NF, Ponderosa pine-Gambel oak and mixed conifer forests provide habitat for the Mexican spotted owl. Although we support Prescott NF's efforts to manage for sustainable forest structure in both forest types, it is unclear from descriptions provided in the draft LRMP how the desired conditions would provide for nesting/roosting habitat for Mexican spotted owls.

Mixed conifer forests tend to occur along a precipitation and elevation continuum. Although the draft LRMP acknowledges this continuum, it combines all mixed conifer into the Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak Forest vegetation type. We acknowledge the mixed conifer vegetation type comprises only a small amount of the vegetation on the Prescott NF; however, we encourage Prescott NF to manage specifically for mixed conifer at the fine scale, not only where it occurred historically, but also where it may grow within its natural range on the Bradshaw and Verde Ranger Districts.

Therefore, we recommend the draft LRMP provide more information regarding how the characteristics of mixed conifer forest will be maintained.

Terrestrial Wildlife Standards and Guidelines

The DEIS acknowledges management of Mexican spotted owl habitat in pine-oak and mixed conifer forests, per the Recovery Plan, as well as protection of listed species during various activities. However, we recommend including more specific direction to work with the FWS towards recovery of Mexican spotted owls and other listed species on the Prescott NF, in order to incorporate section 7(a)(1) conservation responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Therefore, we recommend including such language under the "Standards and Guidelines" for Terrestrial Wildlife in Chapter 4 as well as within desired condition objectives.

We would like to continue to work with the Prescott NF on the management approach to both ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest to more specifically identify objectives for the Mexican spotted owl within the LRMP and to meet recovery objectives for this species on the Prescott NF. Similarly, we would like to work with the Prescott NF on recovery activities for species associated with riparian and aquatic communities, and we recommend incorporating more proactive language in these standards and guidelines.

Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):

Page 20, Diversity and viability of native fish, aquatic herps, and invertebrate species

The DEIS states the Prescott NF would work in cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to restore native fish species to two or three stream reaches on the Forest.

Ltr#0081

We have worked with the Prescott NF and AGFD in the past to identify potential species and locations for repatriation projects. Therefore, we recommend including cooperation with the FWS in any such efforts.

Page 43, Ponderosa Pine-Gambel Oak PNVT

The DEIS states healthy pine forests provide important habitat for species such as northern goshawk and Mexican spotted owl, and that northern goshawk was chosen as a management indicator species. Please note northern goshawk is a habitat generalist whereas Mexican spotted owl is a habitat specialist. Management of pine-oak and mixed conifer habitat towards conditions favoring northern goshawk would not incorporate some of the specific habitat needs of the Mexican spotted owl. Therefore, we recommend including specific direction for Mexican spotted owl management in the LRMP and in site-specific project plans, where appropriate.

Page 68, Table 12

Portions of the Prescott NF along the Verde River and other waters provide important habitat for both nesting and roosting bald eagles. Therefore, we recommend including the bald eagle as a highlighted terrestrial species in the Birds – Guidelines for Wildlife row under “Coarse filter plan components ... plus fine filter components are necessary to reduce viability to a level of no or low risk.”

Pages 69-70, Mexican Spotted Owl and Critical Habitat

In the first paragraph of the “Habitats” section, we recommend noting that Mexican spotted owls also occur in mixed conifer habitat. We also recommend clarifying how much of the existing 26,448 acres of habitat on the Prescott NF is protected and restricted habitat and including more information regarding whether this habitat is nest/roost habitat or foraging habitat.

In the second paragraph of the “Habitats” section, we recommend identifying the critical habitat units as “Basin and Range West (BR-W) 2 and 3.” We recommend clarifying the statement regarding critical habitat that occurs in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas.

Only WUI project areas identified in the 2001 WUI Biological Opinion were excluded from critical habitat designation. According to our records and the WUI Biological Opinion, only two projects on the Prescott NF are listed as part of the WUI Biological Opinion (Boundary Project and Crown King-Ash Creek Project) (69 FR 53217; August 31, 2004).

We recommend clarifying this language to accurately reflect the areas excluded from the critical habitat designation.

In the “Risk Factors” section, we recommend the Prescott NF identify what they believe to be existing threats to the Mexican spotted owl on the Forest. In the current Recovery Plan, we list stand-replacing fire and forest management as the two greatest threats to the species range-wide, but this should be stepped down to those issues the Prescott NF determines are most likely to affect Mexican spotted owl recovery on the Prescott NF.

Ltr#0081

Pages 76-77, Migratory Birds and Eagles

The USFS is a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding for Conservation of the Bald Eagle in Arizona. Therefore, we recommend including a brief description of the *Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the Bald Eagle in Arizona*, which is for the purpose of enhancing the breeding bald eagle population in Arizona. As mentioned above, the Prescott NF provides important breeding areas for the bald eagle, and we encourage continued participation in this partnership and implementation of the statewide conservation strategy.

Page 78, Management Indicator Species

The DEIS states healthy pine forests provide important habitat for species such as northern goshawk and Mexican spotted owl, and that northern goshawk was chosen as a management indicator species. Please note northern goshawk is a habitat generalist whereas Mexican spotted owl is a habitat specialist. Management of pine-oak and mixed conifer habitat towards conditions favoring northern goshawk would not incorporate some of the specific habitat needs of the Mexican spotted owl. Therefore, we recommend including specific direction for Mexican spotted owl management in the LRMP and in site-specific project plans, where appropriate.

Page 80, Table 17

The table states all alternatives are “not likely to result in adverse modification” of Mexican spotted owl critical habitat. Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA prohibits Federal agencies from destroying or adversely modifying critical habitat. In the biological assessment for this action, we recommend the Prescott NF clearly state whether their proposed action would be likely to adversely *affect* critical habitat.

Page 81, Mexican spotted owl

The DEIS states some tree habitat features will be negatively impacted over the short-term. We understand long-term benefits should result from the implementation of management in Mexican spotted owl habitat; negative impacts may also result in some short-term adverse effects to Mexican spotted owls and their habitat. In the biological assessment, we recommend clearly describing both the short and long-term effects to the species and its habitat from the proposed action.

Page 84, Eagles

In addition complying with the Bald and Golden Eagle Act, we recommend including implementation of the statewide conservation strategy for nesting bald eagles as a continuing action in this section.

Page 87, Mexican spotted owl

Ltr#0081

The last sentence states: "Regulatory requirements under ESA and NMFA apply; thereby ensuring adequate levels of MSO habitat." We disagree compliance with ESA will necessarily protect adequate amounts of Mexican spotted owl habitat. Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires Federal agencies not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or destroy or adversely modify their critical habitat. Recovery plans are the primary documents to guide actions to recover species, and provide guidance to agencies and others on removing or reducing threats to these species.

Therefore, we recommend including a statement saying that activities will be managed in accordance with the current Mexican spotted Owl Recovery Plan, and the Prescott NF will implement actions to promote the species' recovery, where appropriate.

Page 103, Riparian Areas, Seeps, and Springs

The DEIS states objectives to protect at least 25, and as many as 55, springs in ten years to benefit species by improving water availability and habitat conditions for migratory birds and aquatic/riparian dependent species. We encourage the Prescott NF to continue to inventory such waters to determine if other locations are suitable for additional protection or restoration.

Pages 126 and 128, Tables 34 and Table 35, Aquatic and Riparian Species

Although the narrow-headed garter snake is not currently protected under the ESA, we have information in our files suggesting protection may be warranted. On November 7, 2011, we solicited information from various agencies and the public requesting information on this species, further indicating a proposed rule to list the narrow-headed garter snake and Mexican garter snake under the ESA, may be published in the Federal Register in November 2012.

Although the narrow-headed garter snake is discussed later in the DEIS under "Regionally Sensitive Species," we believe its consideration for protection under the ESA warrants a higher level of management scrutiny.

Because the two garter snake species occupy similar habitats, we recommend the Prescott NF consider effects to these species in the DEIS similarly and with the same level of management, especially in the "Environmental Consequences" section of the DEIS.

Page 129, Gila Topminnow

The second paragraph states Gila topminnow do not currently occur on the Prescott NF, but potential habitat exists. The DEIS further states, "Since this species does not occur in the analysis area, it will not be considered further." We recommend including the Gila topminnow in the analysis as it is likely that over the life of the LRMP, Gila topminnow will be introduced to potential habitats on the Prescott NF.

Pages 131-132, Loach Minnow and Critical Habitat and Spikedace and Critical Habitat

Ltr#0081

For the status of these two species, we recommend using the following more appropriate language to accurately describe their status in the Verde River: "Spikedace were last detected in the Verde River in 1999. Because of this species' small size and low numbers, it is difficult to detect; however, we believe that spikedace, while rare, may still persist in the uppermost reaches of the Verde River.

Spikedace have been translocated into Fossil Creek, a tributary to the Verde River in Gila County, Arizona, in 2007, and were subsequently augmented in 2008, 2011, and 2012. Loach minnow are considered to be extirpated from the Verde River, but have been translocated to Fossil Creek."

Page 134, Mexican Garter snake

We recommend using the most recent common and scientific names for this species: northern Mexican garter snake (*Thamnophis eques megalops*).

Page 138, Arizona Toad

We recommend using the most recent scientific name for the Arizona toad (*Anaxyrus microscaphus*). This species is no longer in the genus *Bufo*.

Page 138, Lowland Leopard Frog

We recommend using the most recent scientific name for the lowland leopard frog (*Lithobates yavapaiensis*). This species is no longer in the genus *Rana*.

Pages 140-152, Environmental Consequences

For the effects discussions on all fish, the DEIS states Alternative A will have the least effect due to the low emphasis on native fish restoration. We believe it is possible that, by not doing any native fish restoration work, this alternative would have a negative effect on the native fish, not the "least effect," as is described in Alternative A discussions. Therefore, we recommend the Prescott NF consider this possibility, and include this in Alternative A discussions.

Page 142, Razorback Sucker and Critical Habitat, Common to All Alternatives

The paragraph states the implementation of any alternative would lead to a "not likely to result in adverse modification" determination for razorback sucker critical habitat. In the biological assessment, the Prescott NF should make a determination of whether their proposed action would be likely to adversely *affect* critical habitat. Please refer to the comment for page 80 above. This same comment also applies to subsequent sections regarding critical habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher, spikedace, and loach minnow.

Pages 145-146, Spikedace, Loach Minnow, and Critical Habitat

Ltr#0081

We recommend separating the analysis of effects of the alternatives for these species. Although the Federal Register notice included these species together in the listing and critical habitat designation, these species utilize different habitats. These habitat differences should be acknowledged in the discussions.

We are available to discuss these comments with the Prescott NF and further develop means to incorporate guidance from recovery plans and conservation agreements and strategies into the LRMP, and during planning for future actions.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on the draft LRMP and DEIS, and we look forward to continuing our work with USFS. Please contact, Steve Spangle, Field Supervisor, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, Phoenix, Arizona, at 602-242-0212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia Sanderson Port". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" being the most prominent.

Patricia Sanderson Port
Regional Environmental Officer

Cc:
Director, OEPC
Loretta Sutton, OEPC staff contact
Regional Director, FWS, Albuquerque, NM

Ltr#0114



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

GOVERNOR
JANICE K. BREWER
COMMISSIONERS
CHAIRMAN, NORMAN W. FREEMAN, CHINO VALLEY
JACK F. HUSTED, SPRINGVILLE
J.W. HARRIS, TUCSON
ROBERT E. MANSELL, WINSLOW
KURT R. DAVIS, PHOENIX
DIRECTOR
LARRY D. VOYLES
DEPUTY DIRECTORS
GARY R. HOVATTER
BOB BROSCHEID



November 28, 2012

Prescott National Forest
Attention: Plan Revision Team
344 South Cortez Street
Prescott, Arizona 86303

Re: Prescott National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Land and Resource Management Plan

Dear Plan Revision Team:

Thank you for providing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) with the opportunity to comment on the Prescott National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Land and Resource Management Plan (DLRMP). The Department appreciates the opportunity to have been involved in this important planning process, and recognizes the vital role lands administered by the Prescott National Forest (Forest) currently play in providing wildlife habitat as well as opportunities for wildlife-related recreation in Arizona. As Arizona's human population continues to grow throughout the life of the DLRMP, it is anticipated that wildlife and the public will become increasingly dependent upon Forest lands. It is therefore essential the DLRMP not only address current wildlife habitat and recreational needs, but also provide for the high quality habitat and the maintenance of wildlife connectivity within the Forest and between the Forest and other public and private lands – both now and into the future. The Department offers the following *general comments* relating to the DEIS and DLRMP as a whole, with *specific and final comments* to follow.

GENERAL COMMENTS RELATING TO THE DEIS AND DLRMP

Special Land Use Designations (Proposed Wilderness Areas)

Current Land Status and the Department's Ability to Manage Wildlife in Arizona

Federal lands comprise 42% of Arizona's lands. More than 43% of those lands have special land-use designations, upon which significant restrictions exist relating to recreation and the management of wildlife and habitat resources. Only 23% of Arizona's lands remain free of special land designations and open for public use, meaning 77% of lands in Arizona possess restrictions to public access and recreation through ownership (private, state, and tribal) or federal special land use designations.

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

Conservation of wildlife resources upon all lands within Arizona is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. It involves managing wildlife and habitat to ensure abundant wildlife resources are available for present and future generations.

Currently, 4.5 million acres in Arizona have a wilderness designation. With an additional 5.8 million acres of special land-use designations in the form of National Monuments, Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Conservation Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness Characteristics Areas, the state has experienced a systematic loss of recreational opportunities and an erosion of the Department's ability to proactively manage wildlife. Due to special designations on these roughly 10 million acres, the Department experiences extensive and widespread project delays, elevated costs, increased man-hours, and legal challenges - resulting in decreased efficiency in the conservation and management of Arizona's wildlife resources.

The Department finds that a level of protection which maintains wildlife habitat values, provides flexibility in wildlife management, and allows adequate recreational access is often the best strategy for public land use. Due to historical challenges that have impeded its ability to achieve its mission in designated wilderness areas, the Department has concerns with assigning a wilderness designation to the lands identified in the preferred Alternative B of the DEIS. No matter how carefully the wilderness designation language is crafted, a wilderness designation inevitably hampers or precludes the Department from achieving its management objectives. At the very least, wilderness designations result in substantive and costly compliance hurdles which must be addressed before wildlife management actions can be implemented.

Based upon its long history of wildlife management in wilderness areas, the Department anticipates challenges, complications, or obstructions in its ability to implement the following types of management activities in areas with wilderness designations:

- Creation and improvements of alternate access routes.
- Aquatic management and stream renovations, which might include physical removal of noxious weeds and non-native fish, reintroduction of native fish, construction and maintenance of aquatic habitat structures, and monitoring of fish populations.
- Wildlife management, including aerial and motorized ground surveys, transplant of species, marking or collaring of animals, radio tracking of animals, placement of wildlife cameras and scent poles, as well as the development and maintenance of physical structures such as bat gates or riparian habitat.
- Habitat management, including the development and maintenance of wildlife waters, removal of exotic plant species, creation of wildlife corridors through prescribed burns and mechanical removal of timber and brush.

One might believe activities such as these could be provided for in the construction of overt language for their provision in the wilderness designation documents. However, it has been the Department's experience that regardless of the care taken in drafting such language, future management efforts will be more difficult in areas with wilderness designations. This may sometimes be attributed to the diverse perspectives of federal employees applying their differing interpretations of a wilderness designation to proposed management actions. In other instances, challenges may arise due to an inability on the Department's part to accurately forecast all

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

management actions necessary in a wilderness area, and to capture those actions in the enabling documents associated with a wilderness.

Rather than wilderness, the Department advocates the Forest develop management prescriptions in cooperation with the Department for areas such as these, and recognized as possessing important ecosystem values. If developed in cooperation with the Department, these prescriptions would provide a greater level of resource protection, while still providing for the beneficial management of wildlife - without the challenges created within designated wilderness areas.

Conclusions and Request: Special Land Use Designations (Proposed Wilderness Areas)

Both the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 and the Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) legally prohibit federal land management agencies from affecting the State's jurisdiction and responsibilities. Managers of public lands are mandated by FLPMA, the "Organic Act", to provide multiple-use recreational opportunities on public lands to both present and future generations. The Department perceives the conversion of public lands to a special use status as a breach of the FLPMA mandate. In spite of existing legislation, neither the United States Forest Service (USFS) nor Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have established objectives for the scope of public lands in Arizona to be administered in full multiple-use status, and free from restrictive designations.

The Department supports public land use that provides Arizona's public and resources with a net benefit. It does not support the conversion of public lands from multiple-use to land-use designations that are anticipated to result in a net loss of wildlife resources, wildlife-related recreational opportunities, and/or wildlife dependent economic benefit. For these reasons, **the Department does not support an expansion of wilderness on the Prescott National Forest, and requests that a full analysis of the cumulative impacts of further loss of public lands that provide for multiple-use and wildlife related recreational and economic opportunities be conducted before an expansion of wilderness is approved. Further, the Department requests that prior to approval of a wilderness designation for any new lands the Forest first fully analyze that decision's impact to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to fulfill its trust responsibility to manage the state's wildlife resources.**

Resolution Regarding New Proposed Wilderness Areas

Given that wilderness designations impede the Department's ability to fulfill its trust responsibility to manage wildlife and habitat for current and future generations, the Department cannot offer support for preferred Alternative B, wherein eight wilderness expansion areas totaling approximately 43,400 acres are proposed for new wilderness designations.

Motorized Big Game Retrieval (MBGR)

MBGR Background

For many years the Department has participated in the Land and Resource and Travel Management Rule Planning efforts on the Kaibab, Prescott, Coronado, Tonto, and Apache - Sitgreaves National Forests. In these efforts, the Department has advocated for uniformity across the forests in the rules relating to Motorized Big Game Retrieval.

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

The Department supports the need to generally prohibit cross-country motorized travel to protect wildlife habitat and other resources, as well as the restriction of cross-country motorized travel for game scouting or accessing hunting sites. However, the Department has sought, and continues to seek the following MBGR provisions in the Travel, and Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) documents for all of Arizona's Forests:

- Allowing MBGR of all big game (deer, elk, bear, and bison) within one mile of roads designated as open during, and for 24 hours subsequent to designated hunting seasons
- Allowing one trip in – and one trip out
- Restricting access during wet/muddy conditions or across wetland/riparian areas
- Allowing older, less agile, or CHAMPS hunters with service-connected disabilities (*See* A.R.S. §17-336) to make use of a motorized vehicle, within a specified distance of routes designated as open, to retrieve legally-taken big game animals – as provided for in Regulation 36 C.F.R. 212.51, which grants this authority to the Forest Responsible Official.

It is the hope of the Department, that by adopting the above-referenced provisions, and by avoiding blanket prohibitions of MBGR for the big game species referenced above, the Prescott National Forest will avoid the potential abuse of discretion as described in *Neighbors of Cuddy Mountain v. U.S. Forest Service*, 137 F. 3d 1372, 1380 (9th Cir. 1998), and avoid appeal of this decision by the Department, as was recently necessitated by the TMR decision issued for the North Kaibab Forest's North Kaibab Ranger District. (*Please reference North Kaibab Ranger District TMR Appeal letter included in accompanying electronic enclosure*)

Current and Proposed Status of MBGR on the Forest

Currently, the Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott, Coronado, Tonto, and Apache/Sitgreaves National Forests have Travel Management Rule (TMR) and LRMP provisions lacking consistency across the Forests of Arizona. Of particular concern to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, are those provisions relating to Motorized Big Game Retrieval which impact the constituents of the Department engaged in lawful hunting activities. This lack of clear direction pertaining to when, where, how, whom, and what species of downed game may lawfully be retrieved by motorized vehicle creates widespread confusion and fear for the recreating public, and challenges the Department's ability to provide fair and uniform enforcement of the law as it relates to these activities.

On page 74 and 75 of the Prescott National Forest's DLRMP, in the section entitled "Social and Economic Resources – Recreation, Transportation, and Facilities," Std-Rec-2 states, "Only designated roads, motorized trails, and motorized use areas as depicted and described on the motor vehicle use map are open for motorized big game retrieval. Motorized big game retrieval is precluded in areas where motorized travel is prohibited, such as wilderness." On the same page, Guide-Rec-1 goes on to state, "For the purpose of motorized big game retrieval: Use of motor vehicles should be limited to within one mile of designated trails to retrieve a legally hunted and tagged elk during elk hunting seasons as designated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and for 24 hours following the end of the season. Only one vehicle (i.e., one trip in and one trip out) per harvested animal should be operated off of designated roads and motorized

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

trails. Hunters should use the most direct and least ground-disturbing route to accomplish the retrieval. Motorized big game retrieval should not occur when conditions are such that travel would cause damage to natural and/or cultural resources. Motor vehicles should not cross riparian corridors, streams, and rivers, except at hardened crossings or crossings with existing culverts.”

The Department has the statutory authority to manage wildlife in Arizona. Because hunting is a key desire of the public, and is a principal means by which the Department manages the dynamics of the State’s game populations, the Department offers the following recommendation relating to the preceding MBGR standards and guides:

Recommendations Relating to MBGR

The Department requests the Standards and Guides associated with MBGR in the “Social and Economic Resources – Recreation, Transportation, and Facilities” component of the DLRMP, be expanded in scope to allow MBGR for deer, elk, bear, and bison - bringing the Prescott National Forest’s MBGR policy in compliance with the uniform MBGR provisions the Department is seeking Forest-wide in Arizona. Those provisions being:

- **Allowing MBGR of all big game (deer, elk, bear, and bison) within 1 mile of roads designated as open during, and for 24 hours subsequent to designated hunting seasons.**
- **Allowing one trip in – and one trip out.**
- **Restricting access during wet/muddy conditions or across wetland/riparian areas.**
- **Allowing older, less agile, or CHAMPS hunters with service-connected disabilities (See A.R.S. §17-336) to make use of a motorized vehicle, within a specified distance of routes designated as open to retrieve legally-taken big game animals – as provided for in Regulation 36 C.F.R. 212.51, which grants this authority to the Forest Responsible Official.**

The consumptive use of wildlife (hunting) is central to the conservation of wildlife in the United States, with conservation of the nation’s wildlife resources vested largely in the state wildlife agencies. The funding for this conservation is rooted in the contributions of hunters and anglers, with hunting on public lands in the west playing an essential role in the fiscal health of western wildlife conservation agencies. **In the absence of revision to the MBGR component of the Forest’s DLRMP and DEIS as described above, the Department requests the DEIS analyze the cumulative effects of this proposed decision (as well as allied travel management decisions) on the programmatic provision for wildlife conservation by the Department, and further, that the Forest analyze the individual and cumulative effects of this proposed decision (and allied decisions), on the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation.**

DEIS and DLRMP Alignment with Department Strategic Plans

Arizona Game and Fish Department Strategic Documents Currently Referenced in the DEIS

In the DEIS released with the DLRMP, it should be noted that on pages 17-21 (and Table 4) of DEIS Appendix C, the Forest references, and provides detailed documentation of the specific

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

DLRMP provisions whereby the Forest provides support for the following Department Strategic Plans:

- The 2005-2015 "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)"
- The 2007-2012 "Wildlife 2012 Strategic Plan (WL 20/20)"

It should be noted the preceding documents are obsolete, having been superseded by the newly approved Department Strategic Plans: "*State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)*" and "*Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20)*" described under the sub-heading that follows.

Arizona Game and Fish Department's Current Strategic Plans

- *State Wildlife Action Plan*: On May 16, 2012, the Department adopted its current "State Wildlife Action Plan" which provides strategic guidance for the Department's wildlife management for the years 2012-2022. The SWAP, approved earlier this year by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, replaces the now defunct CWCS document.
- *Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan*: Earlier this month (November, 2012), the Department released a draft copy of its current "*Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan*". This plan, WL 20/20, replaces the now defunct Wildlife 2012 Plan.

Request Relating to DEIS and DLRMP Alignment with Department Strategic Plans

Based upon the information provided above, **the Department requests the Forest remedy this inconsistency by correcting pages 17-21 and Table 4 of DEIS, Appendix C, to accurately document alignment between the Forest's Plans and the current Department Strategic Plans:**

- "*State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)*"
- "*Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20)*"

In conjunction with this comment letter, please find the enclosed CD containing the Department's "*State Wildlife Action Plan*" and the "*Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan*", as well as the data layers and resources associated with our State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).

SPECIFIC COMMENTS RELATING TO THE DLRMP

(Page 5, Item 2): Needs for Change

The Plan states, "Retain or improve watershed integrity to provide desired water quality, quantity, and timing of delivery. Addressing this need would provide improved water quality for human health and safety; move watersheds toward maintaining water quantity for both municipal watersheds and maintenance of aquatic and riparian species habitat; and provide timing of delivery that is commensurate with healthy soil and biological function and natural geomorphology."

Recommendation: Consideration to include a properly functional watershed, providing stable habitats for both biological diversity and human recreational uses.

(Page 5, Item 4): Needs for Change

The Plan states, "Provide desired habitat for native fish species. Native fish and other aquatic species are in decline in some watersheds. Furthermore, native aquatic species are no longer known to be present in five watersheds, where historically they were present. In order to assist in responding to the decline in native fish species, the PNF can provide habitat and watershed

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

characteristics that will support these species. It could also partner with the State of Arizona in addressing control of non-native species.

Recommendation: Even if the primary desire is for native fish habitat, a simple statement regarding the improvement of the watershed characteristics would increase the value for native fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, these characteristics (i.e. riparian areas) function to provide important wildlife corridors, along with enabling safer and more efficient wildlife migrations. Habitat and watershed characteristics are important in providing internal habitat and structural diversity, in turn providing increased stability. Additionally, consideration should be given to changing "could also partner" to "will partner with the State of Arizona" in addressing the control of nonnative species, while continuing to provide angler opportunity for both native and non-native species.

(Page 6, Item 5): Needs for Change

The Plan states, "Enhance the value of open space provided by the Prescott NF by defining the visual character with areas near or viewed by those in local communities. Retention of open spaces is highly valued by citizens for its scenic value and contribution to low population density. The Prescott NF has a unique opportunity to enhance value and identify desired visual character on its lands as population density may increase on other ownership."

Recommendation: This discussion should also address the importance of incorporating wildlife linkages into the values of open space. Open spaces provide for a multitude of public benefits, ecosystem services, and products we all need and enjoy such as water, economic prosperity, wildlife, recreation and wildfire protection (USFS <http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/faq.html#n2>).

(Page 7): Social and Economic Values (Missing in Description of Desired Conditions)

Comment: The values do not seem to reflect fish and wildlife related recreation as it would also impact these values and generates a large contribution to the PNF.

Recommendation: The social and economics portions of this document, including the actual analysis in the DEIS should incorporate fish and wildlife related recreation. Below is a compilation of data from available sources indicating significant economic contributions as they relate to the state overall, USFS lands in the state, PNF lands specifically, and AGFD license sales in the States Game Management Units (GMUS) located on the Forest. (The following data has been provided for incorporation into the DEIS Economic Analysis...)

2012 National Survey, Outdoor Industry Association

- 2011 Arizona:
 - Hunting - \$337,759
 - Fishing - \$755,027
 - Wildlife viewing - \$935,880
 - Total: \$2,048,666

2012 License Sales Report

- 2011: GMU's identified on PNF: 8, 17A/B, 19A/B, 20A/B, 21
 - Estimated total permit tag sales (based on the cost of each tag and total tags available for those units): \$665,599.0
 - Estimated total minimum hunt license sales (to purchase total tags available for those units): \$1,248,646.75
 - Hunter days available on request

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

- % of each GMU on the PNF
 - 8 - 33%
 - 17A - 69%
 - 17B - 97%
 - 19A - 50%
 - 19B - 17%
 - 20A - 68%
 - 21 - 22%

2007 American Sport fishing Association for the USDA – USFS

- Total for AZ: \$417,5634,259 (wildlife associated recreation)

2006 American Sport fishing Association for the USDA – USFS

- Prescott = \$129,544,151.0 (wildlife associated recreation)

Other:

- PNF = 18% forest land in AZ
- PNF= 50% land in Yavapai Co.
- Yavapai County (Consumptive) – 2002. Silberman, Jonathan
 - Fishing and Hunting Expenditures: \$40.0 Million
 - Total Multiplier: \$ 49.9 Million
 - Salaries and Wages: \$ 9.8 Million
 - Full and Part time jobs: 811
 - State tax revenues: \$ 2.3 Million
- Yavapai County (Non-Consumptive) – May 2003. Southwick Associates
 - Retail Sales: \$38,924,040.0
 - Total Multiplier: \$72,969,878.0
 - Salaries and Wages: \$20,403,548.0
 - Full and Part time jobs: 692
 - State tax revenues: \$507,205.0

(Page 12, Statement 5): **Needs for Change (Concepts for Understanding)**

Comment: Wildlife as a value to scenic integrity is not included within the SMS system and should be considered, as open spaces should incorporate wildlife linkages and identify the scenic importance of wildlife. The Yavapai and Coconino Wildlife Linkages Assessments further identify and discuss these areas in more detail and should be incorporated into the Plan. (Please note that the linkage reports referenced above may be found in the attached CD enclosed with this comment letter.)

(Page 37-38): **Forest-wide Desired Conditions, Grasslands**

Comment: Consideration should be given to including the tie to landscape scale collaborative efforts that continue to make large scale improvements, such as the Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy.

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

(Page 46-47): **Forest-wide Desired Conditions, Open Space, Lands and Scenic Values**

Comment: Open spaces are important from a wildlife linkage, wildlife movement and migratory corridor perspective as well, not exclusively for providing habitat. Please refer to previous comments relating to open space and scenic values for consideration to provide appropriate expansion within this section.

(Page 55, 56, Obj. 8; Page 44, DC-Rec-1): **Background and Rationale (Dispersed Camping)**

The DLRMP States, "In the absence of specific restrictions, a person can camp in any location on the forest outside of a developed recreation site; this is often called dispersed camping."

Comment: At the November 5, 2012 Board of Supervisors Meeting in Yavapai County, Forest Supervisor Betty Mathews provided an update to the public on the status of the DEIS and DLRMP. At that public meeting, Ms. Mathews stated, "Dispersed Camping is permitted within 300 feet of all roads designated as open on current Motor Vehicle Use Maps ..."

Recommendation: Please rephrase this bullet point to state, "In the absence of specific restrictions, a person can camp in any location on the forest outside of a developed recreation site, and within 300 feet of all roads designated as open on current Motor Vehicle Use Maps..."

(Please note the "Dispersed camping" description in Table 8; page 121 should be modified in the same manner.)

(Page 56, Objective 10): **Recreation, Background and Rationale (Shooting Ranges)**

The DLRMP States, "Create one designated target shooting area during the 10 years following Plan approval" to replace the current range, for which the Forest will not renew the lease."

Comment: With only one designated shooting range, people will likely find their own locations to shoot, with a potential increase in unsafe shooting behavior and possible littering. While 1 Range is a good start, comments included in the draft LMP state that the original plan called for 2-5 ranges - but that this was deemed unfeasible by the Prescott Leadership Team. (Note: This was previously recommended in the 052611 AGFD comment letter to the Forest re: Draft IV of the DLRMP).

Recommendation: The Department still advocates the development of additional recreational shooting sites with lower cost and manpower requirements than full-service shooting ranges. Appropriate wording for this section might be "... create and operate one formal target shooting range, and create 2-5 additional informal recreational target shooting areas (pocket ranges)". (Note: This would require modification to page 9 of the DEIS).

(Page 69, Guide-WL-2): **Terrestrial Wildlife**

The DLRMP States, "Design features and mitigation measures should be incorporated in all Forest Service projects as needed to ensure Southwestern Region Sensitive Species do not trend toward listing as threatened or endangered."

Recommendation: This paragraph should be modified to include the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)." (Please note SGCN file in attached CD included with this comment letter)

(Page 69, Guide-WL-3): **Terrestrial Wildlife**

The DLRMP lists provision for the benefit of pronghorn habitat and populations.

Recommendation: This paragraph should be modified, by additionally making reference to the Department's Central Arizona Grassland Strategy (CAGS)." (Please reference the CAGS file in attached CD included with this comment letter)

LT#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

(Page 77, Guide-Lands-2): Terrestrial Wildlife

Recommendation: As with the recommendation for page 69, Guide-WL-2 above, this paragraph should be modified to include the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)." (Please note SGCN file in attached CD included with this comment letter)

(Page 84-85): Standards and Guidelines, Range

Recommendation: The WS-4 should be considered for this section as it provides the concept for adaptive management regarding watershed function. An additional guide should incorporate grass reserve banks.

(Page 111, Table 5): Monitoring Questions

Recommendation: In the final row of the table on page 111, under the heading "Monitoring Question," the question at this intersection in the table should be modified to not only reflect Federally listed species, but include the Arizona Game and Fish Department's "Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)" as well. (Please note SGCN file in attached CD included with this comment letter.)

Final Comments and Conclusions Relating to DEIS Alternatives

Prescott National Forest's Preferred Alternative (Alternative B)

The Department understands information gathered from citizens and the public during the development of Community Vision Statements, the "Ecological Sustainability Report" (ESR), the "Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment" and the "Analysis of the Management Situation" (AMS) influenced the alternative themes developed for the DEIS, which have been developed in part based upon the potential environmental, social, and economic consequences of implementing each alternative.

Additionally, the Department understands Alternative B, with its suite of proposed management actions, is the proposed revised plan and was developed iteratively in a collaborative manner to address the needs for change identified in chapter 1 of the DEIS.

The Department met with and repeatedly provided feedback to the Forest in the draft developments of the proposed revised plan. The Department agrees with members of the public who felt *viability and habitats* should have greater emphasis in all possible plan alternatives, and finds existing designated wilderness areas to be adequate. Consequently the Department does not support the Forest's preferred choice of Alternative B.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Preferred Alternative (Alternative C)

The Department understands Alternative C was developed to address the issues specific to species viability and habitat, by providing a greater focus on the improvement of ecological conditions and wildlife habitats. It provides additional emphasis on restoring the vegetation types most severely departed from desired conditions, provides for increased restoration treatment activities within the Ponderosa Pine and Grasslands Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVT's), and places additional emphasis on management actions providing benefit to

Ltr#0114
Plan Revision Team
November 28, 2012

native fish habitat and management indicator species such as pronghorn. In addition to these considerations, with Alternative C being the sole alternative in which there are no additional areas recommended for wilderness designation (contrasting the eight Wilderness Expansion Areas totaling approximately 43,400 acres identified in Alternative B), it is Alternative C with which the Department most closely aligns, and for which it offers its support.

The Department appreciates the tremendous effort, monumental investment of manpower, and outreach employed by the Forest in this planning effort. The Department wishes to again express its appreciation for the opportunity to provide comment in this important process. If you have any questions related to this letter or the comments, requests or recommendation that it contains, please feel free to contact me by phone at 928-692-7700, ext. 2300, or by email at tfinley@azgfd.gov.

Sincerely,



Tom Finley
Supervisor, Region III

TPF:tb

cc: Laura Canaca, Supervisor, Habitat Project Evaluation Program
Trevor Buhr, Habitat Program Manager, Region III
Larry Riley, Assistant Director and Acting Habitat Branch Chief

Enclosure: CD containing the following: 2012-2022 State Wildlife Action Plan, Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan, Species and Habitat Conservation Guide, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, Species of Economic and Recreational Importance, Data Layers Associated with the Department's Habimap Planning Tool, Arizona's 2006 Wildlife Linkages Assessment, Arizona Missing Linkages Reports, Yavapai and Coconino County Stakeholder Linkages Reports, Arizona Game and Fish Department Wind and Solar Energy Guidelines, Central Arizona Grassland Strategy, November 2, 2012 Letter: North Kaibab Ranger District Travel Management – Appeal of pursuant to 36 CFR 2015

Yavapai County Development Services

Prescott Office

1120 Commerce Dr., Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 771-3214 Fax: (928) 771-3432



Cottonwood Office

10 S. 6th Street, Cottonwood, AZ 86326
(928) 639-8151 Fax: (928) 639-8153

Addressing – Building Safety – Customer Service & Permitting – Environmental – Land Use – Planning

November 20, 2012

Prescott National Forest
Attention: Plan Revision
344 South Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303

RE: Comments on Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

To Regional Forester:

Yavapai County Staff is appreciative of the opportunity to review the draft plan prior to the comment period. It gave the County a chance to compare the PNF draft plan with our updated Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed forest management plan. The proposed revised plan (Alternative B) appears to be in general conformance with the updated Yavapai County Comprehensive Plan and adds to the implementation of the County Plan.

Please be advised that the above comments do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Yavapai County Planning and Zoning Commission or the Board of Supervisors or other departments within Yavapai County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tammy DeWitt".

Tammy DeWitt, Senior Planner
Yavapai County Development Services
Planning and Land Use Unit

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

The intent of this crosswalk is to provide greater transparency on how existing plan direction (e.g., standards and guidelines) was incorporated into the revised plan. The revised plan is strategic in nature, as such; some components of the 1987 Plan as amended are still adequate and timely and have been carried forward into the revised plan. However, other components have been modified or removed, for reasons including:

- they describe a purely administrative or procedural function;
- they duplicate direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy;
- they are based on outdated policies, science, or information;
- they include out-of-date terminology.

In addition, some standards and guidelines in the 1987 Plan will not be included in the revised Plan because they:

- were unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish a project;
- did not support attaining desired conditions or accomplishing objectives;
- were duplicative.

It should be noted that existing laws, regulations, and Forest Service policy must be followed even if it is not duplicated in Forest Plan direction.

To reference plan decisions more easily, a numbering scheme is used in the plan and this crosswalk. It consists of three parts: (1) type of plan decision (e.g., a desired condition, objective, guideline); (2) resource area (e.g., vegetation, recreation, heritage); and (3) number.

Abbreviations are used to shorten these labels. The following examples illustrate this scheme: “DC-Veg-1” relates to the first listed desired condition for vegetation; “Obj-7” relates to the seventh objective listed; and “Guide-AF MA-1” relates to the first listed guideline for the Agua Fria Management Area. Forestwide Desired Conditions (DCs) are found in chapter 2 of the revised Plan. Forestwide Objectives (Objs) are found in chapter 3. Forestwide Standards and Guidelines (Stds & Guides) are found in chapter 4. Management Area Direction (DCs/Objectives/S&Gs) are found in chapter 5.

In the crosswalk, the 1987 Plan Page # refers to the 2004 republish version of the 1987 Plan which includes Amendments 1 through 12. Direction from Amendments 13 through 16 has also been included in the crosswalk. Replacement pages have been indicated by a "-1" suffix on the page number.

Table 32. Crosswalk of direction found in the 1987 plan and the revised plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
General	The forest is managed with a primary emphasis on healthy, robust environments with productive soils, clean air and water, and diverse populations of flora and fauna. Public information, education and interpretation of forest resources, ecosystems and management are provided.	11	Yes	Forest Plan Chapter 1: Prescott National Forest Mission and Vision	
Range	Provide forage to grazing and browsing animals to the extent benefits are relatively commensurate with costs without impairing land productivity, in accordance with management area objectives.	12	Yes	DC-Veg-3	
Range	Cooperate with other agencies and private range landowners to reduce impacts of livestock grazing.	12	No		Cooperation with range permittees and other agencies is a standard practice in range management. This direction is not appropriate for the forest plan.
Range	Identify and manage areas that contain threatened and endangered species of plants.	12	Yes	DC-Veg-4 DC-Veg-5	
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	Information, environmental education and interpretive services are available forestwide to communicate the Forest Service role and mission, forest themes, management actions and ecosystem concepts, and to enhance forest user understanding and enjoyment.	12	Yes	Guide-Interp-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	Forest information, education and interpretation present resources and management information within a holistic, ecosystem context. Landscape ecology is stressed, with specific interpretive messages focusing on the interdependency of land, peoples, systems and processes.	12	Yes	Guide-Interp-1	
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	The forest provides for full integration of interpretive services with other Forest Service resources, disciplines, facilities, programs and personal services.	12	Yes	Guide-Interp-1	
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	Public contact staff supports forest law enforcement officials through internal and external communication to reduce infractions and improve public understanding and support of public land stewardship responsibilities.	12	Yes	Guide-Interp-1	
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	Volunteers and partnerships are used to provide increased public contact.	12	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	
Recreation	Recreation users enjoy a full spectrum of experiences and benefits in appropriately managed facilities and other forest settings.	12	Yes	DC-Rec-1	
Recreation	Heritage resources represent an opportunity for research, education, understanding and enjoyment that enhances their stewardship and protection.	12	Yes	DC-Heritage-1	
Recreation	The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is the framework for recreation planning.	12	Yes	Guide-Rec-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Recreation	All recreation sites are managed at a capacity of use level that ensures that the natural resources will be maintained at a desirable condition over the expected life of the project and/or activity.	12	Yes	Guide-Rec-6	
Visual Resources	The visual landscape appears natural within the context of indigenous vegetation and landforms or modified within the goals of the current Forest Service Scenic (Visual) Management System.	12	Yes	DC-Scenic-1	
Visual Resources	Special concerns for preservation of visual resources are a priority in primary recreation areas and in areas of high visual concern.	12	Yes	Guide-Scenic-1 Guide-Scenic-4 Guide-Scenic-8	
Visual Resources	Visual quality is managed to reflect existing and future uses of the landscape unit.	12	Yes	Guide-Scenic-2	
Wilderness	Natural agents of ecological change will be allowed to operate freely in wilderness. All other uses allowed in wilderness will be managed to preserve the wilderness character and value.	13	Yes	DC-Wild-1 Std-Wild-2	
Wilderness	Allow lightning-caused wildfire to play a more natural role.	13	Yes	Std-Wild-2	
Timber	Provide for nondeclining sustained yield of timber.	13	Yes	Timber Suitability, Long-Term Sustained Yield Capacity, and Allowable Sale Quantity Report	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Timber	Establish improved balance in age class distribution through silvicultural prescribed stand management. Focus on reducing constraining components of stand strata. Protect existing old growth stands.	13	Yes	DC-Veg-1 Std-FP-1 to 4	
Timber	Improve stand productivity through management.	13	Yes	DC-Veg-1	
Timber	Provide green and dead firewood and other forest products on a sustained yield basis.	13	Yes	DC-Veg-2	
Timber	Timber harvest will be used as a tool to accomplish multiple resource objectives when it is identified as the optimum method through site-specific environmental analysis.	13	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Wildlife and Fish Habitat	Manage for a diverse, well distributed pattern of habitats for wildlife populations and fish species in cooperation with states and other agencies.	13	Yes	DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1 DC-Wildlife-1 DC-Aquatic-1	
Wildlife and Fish Habitat	Cooperate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to meet or exceed management goals and objectives in the Arizona Cold Water Fisheries Strategic Plan.	13	No		The plan referred to is obsolete. The 2015 Prescott NF Forest Plan aligns with the AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20) and the 2012-2022 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). This is detailed in Tables 4 and 5 of Appendix C of the FEIS.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Wildlife and Fish Habitat	Maintain and/or improve habitat for threatened or endangered species and work toward the eventual recovery and delisting of species through recovery plan implementation.	13	Yes	DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1 DC-Wildlife-2 DC-Aquatic-3 Obj-24 Guide-WL-1 Guide-Fish/Aquatics-1	
Wildlife and Fish Habitat	Integrate wildlife habitat management activities into all resource practices through intensive coordination.	13	No		This specific direction was not carried over. The intent was unclear as coordination with wildlife management agencies is a standard practice. This is site-specific direction.
Wildlife and Fish Habitat	Support the goals and objectives of the Arizona Wildlife and Fisheries Comprehensive Plan, as approved by the Southwestern Regional Forester and Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.	13	No		The plan referred to is obsolete. The 2015 Prescott NF Forest Plan aligns with the AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20) and the 2012-2022 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). This is detailed in Tables 4 and 5 of Appendix C of the FEIS.
Minerals	Administer the mineral laws and regulations to minimize surface resource impacts while supporting sound energy and minerals exploration and development.	13	Yes	DC-Minerals-1	
Minerals	Pursue reclamation of past and present mined lands.	13	Yes	DC-Minerals-1 Std-Locatable Minerals-3 Std-Minerals Materials-1	
Soil and Water	Protect and improve the soil resource.	13	Yes	DC-Watershed-3 Guide-Soils-1 to 5	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil and Water	Provide for long-term quality waterflow needs through improved management technology.	13	No		This direction is obsolete and was not carried over. The current focus is on ecological function as described in DC-Watershed-1.
Soil and Water	Avoid adverse impacts to the public, Government facilities and all uses in flood plains and wetlands.	14	Yes	DC-Watershed-2 Std-WS-1 to 3 Guide-WS-4	
Soil and Water	Restore all lands to satisfactory watershed condition.	14	Yes	DC-Watershed-1	
Riparian	Give riparian-dependent resources preference over other resources.	14	Yes	DC-Veg-23 Guide-WS-3	
Riparian	Improve all riparian areas and maintain in satisfactory condition.	14	Yes	DC-Veg-23 Obj-19	
Air Quality	Minimize air pollution from land management activities through application and timing of improved management practices.	14	Yes	DC-Airshed-1	
Fire Management	The fire interval, behavior and effects associated with the historic fire regime are returned to the landscape where feasible.	14	Yes	DC-Veg-1	
Fire Management	When and where appropriate, ecosystem objectives are met through the use of prescribed fire and wildland fires used for resource benefits.	14	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-2 Guide-Wildland Fire-4	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Law Enforcement	Improve the forest's law enforcement program by taking an aggressive posture that emphasizes good public education, better employee training, more employee field presence, increased line manager accountability, and increased public assistance.	14	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.
Lands and Special Uses	Conduct landownership adjustment, right-of-way acquisition, landline location and special uses programs to promote efficient management.	14	Yes	DC-Lands-1 Obj-29 Guide-Lands-1 to 3	
Facilities	Maintain a transportation system to support resource goals.	14	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Facilities	Construct, maintain and regulate use of Forest Service facilities to protect natural resources, correct safety hazards, reduce disinvestments, and support management activities.	14	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Facilities	Ensure adequate information exists at all facilities to provide visitor orientation, information and interpretation.	14	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about providing information.
Facilities	Incorporate interpretive site plans in the planning and development of capital investment projects.	14	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about providing information.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Land Management Planning	Ensure interdisciplinary input and coordination for implementing, monitoring and updating the Forest Plan.	14	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy under provisions of the 1982 planning rule that provide guidance for updating forest plans. This does not need to be repeated in the actual forest plan.
Human Resources	Manage human resource programs to provide employment and economic development opportunities while meeting natural resource goals.	15	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Human Resource Management. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Human resource programs are centrally managed through the Albuquerque Service Center.
Vegetation Management	Utilize NEPA procedures to establish project objectives, locations and methods. Documentation of decisions will include the rationale for these items.	15	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Vegetation Management	Vegetation management projects are subjected to environmental analysis according to NEPA regulations. This is analysis specific and contains documentation for the: (1) project objectives; (2) site selection process; and (3) treatment method selection rationale.	15	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Vegetation Management	Examine the feasibility of prescribing fire under naturally occurring conditions.	15	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Vegetation Management	Prevent any new noxious or invasive weed species from becoming established, contain or control the spread of known weed species, and eradicate species that are the most invasive and pose the greatest threat to biological diversity and watershed condition.	15	Yes	DC-Veg-1 Obj-6 Guide-Veg-2 Guide-Veg-3	
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	The Forest EE/IS (Environmental Education and Interpretive Services) Plan provides design and production standards for all interpretive media. These standards will be reviewed and updated as needed, based on project monitoring results.	17	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to provide environmental education and interpretive services.
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	All plans for interpretive related facilities, programs and recreational development will follow standards set forth in the Forest EE/IS Plan.	17	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	All interpretive funding requests will be accompanied by a completed interpretive plan for the site or program requested, identifying themes, objectives and audience.	17	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	The official forest visitor map will provide written visitor information regarding access policy for roads, trails and cross-country travel.	17	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.
Environmental Education / Interpretive Services	Training for both forest employees and volunteers in interpretation and public contact will be given a high priority.	17	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive. Priorities for employee training varies based on job description.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Developed Recreation	Maintain and operate developed sites at the standard service level.	18	No		This specific direction was not carried over. The intent was unclear as there is no definition for "standard service level". The current focus for developed recreation is described in DC-Rec-1.
Developed Recreation	Maintain all facilities in a safe and operable condition.	18	Yes	DC-Rec-1	
Developed Recreation	No new recreation residence sites will be established.	18	Yes	Std-Lands-1	
Developed Recreation	Incorporate fuels and vegetative management planning into project and landscape planning for developed recreation areas. Include a description of a desired future condition that will provide for public safety and for maintenance and enhancement of vegetation health and visual quality.	18	No		This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and duplicates Forest Service policy about how to accomplish projects within developed recreation areas.
Developed Recreation	No improvements will be constructed within inventoried potential recreation sites that will detract from the future value of those sites for recreation development.	18	No		This specific direction was not carried over. The intent was unclear as there is no inventory of potential recreation sites.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Developed Recreation	In developed recreation sites and in areas within a quarter mile, utilize prescribed fire when recreation and visual resource objectives can be met. Burning prescriptions will limit predicted flame height to 3 feet or less to ensure tree crowns are protected from scorch. Along the primary access routes to developed recreation sites and within an area 132 feet from centerline, utilize prescribed fire when recreation and visual resource objectives can be met. Burning prescriptions will limit predicted flame height to 3 feet or less to ensure tree crowns are protected from scorch. Interpretive information will be available at these sites and at the district office while effects of burning are evident.	18	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects within developed recreation areas. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Developed Recreation	<p>In foreground areas adjacent to developed recreation areas, all primary travel routes, and secondary travel routes where at least one-quarter of the users have a major concern for the scenic qualities, the following will apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Log landings will be located outside these areas. 2. The skidding of logs will be done on dry or frozen ground using equipment or methods that keep soil disturbance to a minimum. 3. Cut tree and other vegetation as near ground level as possible and direct the cutface away from the area being viewed, without sacrificing safety. 4. Require 100 percent slash treatment in developed recreation areas and within 66 feet of roads. 5. Complete slash treatment within 1 year following closure of the cutting unit or other slash-creating activity. 	18	Yes	<p>Guide-Soils-5 Guide-Scenic-4 Guide-Scenic-6 Guide-Scenic-8</p>	
Developed Recreation	The edges of clearcuts and juniper type conversions will be irregular and feathered through the use of shelterwood and selection cutting methods.	18	Yes	Guide-Scenic-2	
Developed Recreation	Chaparral conversions will have irregular edges and will include randomly selected clumps on ridgetops and high points.	18	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Dispersed Recreation	An annual operation and maintenance plan will be prepared for heavily used dispersed recreation areas.	18	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Dispersed Recreation	Manage dispersed recreation areas at the standard service level.	18	No		This specific direction was not carried over. The intent was unclear as there is no definition for "standard service level". The current focus for dispersed recreation is described in DC-Rec-1.
Dispersed Recreation	Through printed material, advise back-country users that all water must be treated if intended for human consumption, and that water sources are not dependable.	19	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about providing information.
Dispersed Recreation	Maintain dispersed recreation facilities (fencing, gates, signs, etc.) in a safe and operable condition.	19	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Dispersed Recreation	Replace or remove improvements where they no longer serve the intended purpose and/or when they present a public health or safety hazard.	19	Yes	DC-Rec-1	
Dispersed Recreation	The access policy for the forest is described below:	19	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.
Dispersed Recreation	The one-half inch scale forest visitor map is adopted as the official access policy map for the forest.	19	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Dispersed Recreation	Motor vehicles are allowed only on forest roads indicated on the forest visitor map and signed on the ground. Where discrepancies occur, on-the-ground signing will prevail.	19	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.
Dispersed Recreation	Trail access is restricted to nonmotorized use except where indicated on the forest visitor map and signed on the ground. Where discrepancies occur, on the ground signing will prevail.	19	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.
Dispersed Recreation	<p>Cross-country travel by any vehicle is prohibited, with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special areas designated for cross-country travel • Persons with a valid permit to perform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Big game retrieval (direct ingress/egress with animal down) -Firewood retrieval (direct ingress/egress with valid permit) outside of the Prescott Basin Area -Approved resource management activities (employees/permittees) • Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty • Vehicle ingress and egress to a campsite within 300 feet of a road (however, no ingress or egress to a campsite is permitted by motor vehicles from trails), outside of the Prescott Basin Area 	19	Yes	Std-Rec-1 Std-Rec-2 Guide-Rec-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Dispersed Recreation	Within the Prescott Basin area (see Appendix K), vehicular cross-country travel is restricted to 50 feet from a Forest Development Road for firewood retrieval and day use recreation.	19	Yes	Std-Rec-1 Std-Rec-2 Guide-Rec-1	
Dispersed Recreation	Vehicles are prohibited within all wilderness areas.	19	No		This is prohibited under the Wilderness Act and as such duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Dispersed Recreation	Horse use is allowed on roads and trails and for cross-country travel. Horse travel use within developed recreation areas is prohibited except in the Groom Creek Horsecamp Campground.	19	Yes	DC-Rec-1 DC-Rec-2 Trails DC-Transportation and Facilities-1 Guide-Rec-6	
Dispersed Recreation	Access restrictions for roads, trails or cross-country travel may be yearlong or temporary to reduce erosion potential, protect roads, protect cultural sites, and to provide opportunities for recreation in a setting without vehicular disturbance.	20	Yes	Std-Rec-1 Std-Rec-2 Guide-Rec-6 Guide-Trans-4	
Dispersed Recreation	Annually review and update the access policy for the forest. Access policy changes for specific roads, trails or cross-country travel require NEPA compliance with full public participation during this process. The official access policy map shall be updated to reflect any changes in access policy for specific roads, trails or cross-country travel. Monitor use of roads, trails and cross-country travel to determine the effectiveness of the forest access policy. Actively seek public participation in the access monitoring process.	20	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Dispersed Recreation	<p>The following criteria are used to evaluate the need for future access restrictions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High erosion hazard areas likely to be or being damaged by off-highway vehicle (OHV) use 2. Slopes exceeding 40 percent where high probability for damage exists 3. Meadows likely to be or being damaged 4. Areas where the Visual Quality Objectives of Preservation, Retention or Partial Retention are jeopardized 5. Areas where user conflicts must be resolved to ensure public safety 6. Where habitat for threatened, endangered or sensitive species is jeopardized 7. Areas important to wildlife reproduction (e.g., fawning or nesting areas) where disturbance is causing or is likely to cause significant stress and reduction of reproductive success 8. Riparian areas that are jeopardized or damaged 	20	Yes	Guide-WS-3 Guide-WS-10 Guide-Soils-3 Guide-Soils-4 Guide-WL-1 Guide-WL-3 Guide-Fish/Aquatics-1 Std-Rec-1 Std-Rec-2 Guide-Rec-7 Guide-Rec-10 Guide-Trans-1 Guide-Trans-3 Guide-Trans-4 Guide-Trans-6 Guide-Scenic-1 Guide-Scenic-2	
Dispersed Recreation	Law enforcement, in support of the access policy, focuses on minimizing resource damage and user conflicts. Regulatory signing is appropriate to inform the public and assist law enforcement activity.	20	Yes	DC-Rec-1 DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Dispersed Recreation	Implement access restrictions to prevent unauthorized reopening of closed or obliterated roads.	20	Yes	Std-Rec-1 Std-Rec-2 Guide-Rec-5	
Dispersed Recreation	Implement appropriate measures to ensure that significant long-term resource damage does not occur.	20	Yes	DC-Rec-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Dispersed Recreation	Manage the General Crook Trail and associated historic sites and side trails for potential Congressional designation as a National Historic Trail.	20	Yes	DC-Rec-1	
Dispersed Recreation	Incorporate fuels and vegetation management planning into project and landscape planning for high-use, dispersed recreation areas. Include a description of a desired future condition that will provide for public safety and for maintenance and enhancement of vegetation health and visual quality. Also include planning for high-use roads and trails to provide for public safety, vegetation health and enhancement of vistas and viewpoints.	20	Yes	DC-Rec-1 Guide-Wildland Fire-9 Guide-Rec-4 Guide-Rec-11	
Heritage Resources	The heritage resources program on the Prescott National Forest will consist of the following activities: Inventory, protection, study/evaluation, interpretation and preservation. In support of the above activities, the forest will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11593, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the Programmatic Agreement regarding cultural resources protection and responsibilities executed by the New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO), the advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region.	21	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Heritage Resources	Where the programmatic agreement does not specify standards, those in the Forest Service Manual and Handbook will apply.	21	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) and Forest Service Manual (FSM).

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	During the conduct of undertakings, the preferred management option for heritage resources listed on, nominated to, eligible for, or potentially eligible for the National Register is avoidance and preservation in place, leading to a “no effect” finding. Exceptions may occur in specific cases where consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) indicates that data recovery or other treatment to minimize or mitigate effects is acceptable and appropriate.	21	Yes	Guide-Her-1 Guide-Her-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	<p>When resource management conflicts occur, the values of preservation of heritage resources will be weighed against the values of the proposed land use. In assessing the priority for preservation of heritage resources, give consideration to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listing on or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. 2. Adequacy of present methods of investigation and data recovery to realize the current research potential of the cultural resources. 3. Likelihood that the heritage resources will have greater importance for addressing future research questions than current ones. 4. Presence of heritage values other than research potential (e.g., association with significant historical persons or events, traditional cultural or religious values, or unique interpretive values), where those values are fully realized only when the heritage resources exist undisturbed in their original context(s). 5. Likelihood of disturbing historic or prehistoric burials. 6. Significance based primarily on architectural character and integrity of the setting. 7. Importance of preservation in place relative to the objectives of the State Historic Preservation Plan. 8. Site densities that make data recovery economically infeasible, or require unattainable operating conditions. 	21	Yes	DC-Heritage-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	Where preservation in place is important under these conditions, give serious consideration to such options as project redesign, relocation or cancellation. The procedure specified in 36 CFR 800 and the programmatic agreement will be followed in reaching a management decision.	21	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Heritage Resources	Assure that the heritage resource management program contributes to a better understanding of the nature and importance of forest cultural resources and aids in development of a better framework for management. Work toward completion of studies needed to provide this understanding and management framework by using study evaluation units, which can provide a focus and context for heritage resource work. Study evaluation units will be used to help prioritize and tie together inventory, evaluation, National Register nominations, stabilization and interpretive efforts.	21	Yes	DC-Heritage-1 DC-Heritage-2 Guide-Interp-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	<p>A prioritized list of study evaluation units is included in the Implementation Schedule for Heritage Resources Management, which will be maintained separately from the Forest Plan. This schedule specifically includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A priority listing for heritage resource studies by evaluation unit 2. A priority listing of areas to inventory for the purpose of expanding the existing knowledge base 3. A priority listing of properties for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places 4. An inspection schedule of specific heritage sites 5. A priority listing of stabilization projects 6. A priority listing of sites needing maintenance plans 7. A priority listing of heritage resource interpretive projects 	22	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	The implementation schedule will be updated as necessary, based upon new information and findings, and will provide the basis for current and long-term program planning.	22	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	Update the forest's Heritage Resources Overview and Planning Assessment in FY 1995 to incorporate new information and findings.	22	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	Plan and conduct forest undertakings in compliance with the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800 and the programmatic agreement. The area of an undertaking's potential environmental impact will be inventoried for heritage resources. The inventory strategy will be determined by the programmatic agreement, Forest Service Handbook, and consultation with the Arizona SHPO. American Indian groups will be consulted as appropriate.	22	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Heritage Resources	When NEPA scoping or other information suggests the likelihood that heritage resources having religious or traditional cultural values for living communities of American Indian tribes may be present, these communities or tribes will be consulted concerning the location and importance of those resources and alternatives for protecting them.	22	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Heritage Resources	Heritage resources management will be coordinated to the extent feasible with the State Cultural Resource Plan and planning activities of the State Historic Preservation Officer, and with other State and Federal agencies. This will include periodic meetings, data sharing, coordination on National Register nominations, interpretation, site protection, and participation in the State heritage resources planning process.	22	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	In addition to inventories for proposed undertakings, conduct inventories to expand existing knowledge about the nature, location and management needs of forest heritage resources. Areas rated as highest priority for survey will be those that are: (1) important components of Study Evaluation Units; (2) expected to have high site densities; (3) important to understanding the historic or prehistoric occupation of the forest; and/or (4) known or thought to be threatened by looting, impacts of visitor use or other forces.	22	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
Heritage Resources	A prioritized list of inventory areas is included in the Implementation Schedule for Heritage Resource Management.	22	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	In consultation with the SHPO, evaluate heritage resources for eligibility for the National Register. Sites not yet evaluated will be considered potentially eligible and will be managed as if eligible until evaluated.	23	Yes	DC-Heritage-1 Guide-Her-2	
Heritage Resources	A prioritized list of National Register nominations is included in the Implementation Schedule for Heritage Resources Management.	23	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	An inspection schedule is also included in the Implementation Schedule for Heritage Resources Management.	23	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	Heritage resources known to have sustained damage that threatens loss of scientific data, architectural integrity, interpretive potential, or other values will be stabilized as part of an ongoing stabilization program. The forest will maintain a list of heritage resources needing stabilization work, consisting of 5 sites that are the highest priority for stabilization, 35 sites (if identifiable) that have sustained severe damage, and up to 60 additional sites that have sustained less severe damage.	23	Yes	DC-Heritage-1 Guide-Her-1	
Heritage Resources	Stabilization may include architectural stabilization, backfilling, drainage and erosion control measures, data recovery, fencing, and other actions needed to halt or slow deterioration.	23	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	Priorities for stabilization are included in the Implementation Schedule for Heritage Resources Management.	23	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	Implement other site protection measures as necessary, including signing, administrative closure, road closure, withdrawal from mineral entry, patrolling and law enforcement activities. Parties known to have damaged heritage resources willfully or through negligence will be held legally and financially liable for the costs of stabilization and repair.	23	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	Inspect heritage resources identified for avoidance in undertakings to ensure that boundaries are properly marked and protection measures are implemented. Follow the standards in the Forest Service Manual.	23	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Manual (FSM).
Heritage Resources	In each forest contract, permit or lease that has the potential to affect heritage resources, include a clause specifying site protection responsibilities and liability for damage. If damage to a heritage resource is found, follow the procedures in the Forest Service Manual and Handbook.	23	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) and Forest Service Manual (FSM).
Heritage Resources	Develop and implement maintenance plans as needed to help ensure preservation of structures listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.	23	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	Priorities for development of maintenance plans are shown in the Implementation Schedule for Heritage Resources Management.	23	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	Expand opportunities for forest visitors to learn about the past. Use an integrated approach aimed at providing a variety of interpretive opportunities and experience levels. Emphasize respect for the past and site protection while facilitating visitor access to and enjoyment of selected heritage resources. This will include opportunities for appreciation, education and participation.	23	Yes	Guide-Interp-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Heritage Resources	<p>The following goals will guide interpretation of heritage resources on the Prescott National Forest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen heritage resources protection through increased public awareness and understanding. • Serve people by providing opportunities for diverse audiences to discover and enjoy heritage resources on national forest lands. • Contribute to an appreciation of the Nation's cultural heritage and its relevance to present day life and peoples. • Enhance recreational experiences for forest visitors through quality interpretive programs and materials. 	24	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	A prioritized list of heritage resources interpretive projects is included in the Implementation Schedule for Heritage Resources Management.	24	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Heritage Resources	Heritage resource work for permits involving ground disturbance will be provided by the applicant.	24	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Visual Quality	Visual quality levels as inventoried and mapped serve as the visual quality objectives (VQOs) for the forest.	24	Yes	Guide-Scenic-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Visual Quality	Analyze each project in the field to determine if the elements and levels that comprise the existing VQOs are accurate and reflect current conditions and uses. Raise VQOs to the next higher scenic level if appropriate, and determine if this new VQO level reflects increased or anticipated public use and/or future management intentions for the area. Changes to inventoried VQOs require project-level NEPA analysis and a decision by the forest supervisor. The changes will be mapped and tracked for trend assessment during the first decade of Forest Plan implementation.	24	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology. Current direction for scenic resources is provided by the Scenery Management System (SMS) using scenic integrity objectives (SIOs), not visual quality objectives (VQOs).
Visual Quality	In ponderosa pine foregrounds, manage for diversity varying from openings to multistoried stands, with some overmature yellow-barked ponderosa pine trees in open, park-like stands. Group selection within the front 200 feet of the foreground should not exceed 1 acre and the shapes should be designed to achieve the characteristics of natural openings.	24	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Visual Quality	In retention and partial retention VQO middle ground and background distance zones, create or maintain a diversified texture of the forested landscape in relation to the existing landscape character type. All improvements, permanent structures, vegetation manipulation, ground-disturbing activities and/or construction will be compatible with the visual quality objective for the area.	24	Yes	Guide-Scenic-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Visual Quality	By the end of the second decade (1996-2005), develop viewshed corridor implementation plans for all high-use areas, water bodies, primary travel routes and all secondary routes where three-quarters of the users have major concern for scenic qualities.	25	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
Visual Quality	Conduct vegetation management planning for visual quality to enhance and assist in long-term survival of aspen stands and other interesting vegetation features. Implementation would occur after analysis of applicable environmental factors is performed.	25	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
Visual Quality	Complete visual absorption capability and existing visual condition mapping for the forest by the end of the first decade (1986-1995).	25	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
Visual Quality	By the end of the first decade (1986-1995), inventory and list in priority order all areas not meeting VQOs that need rehabilitation.	25	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
Visual Quality	Manage developed recreation site perimeters (within 330 feet) for the visual quality objective of retention.	25	Yes	Guide-Scenic-2	
Visual Quality	Design and construct improvements and permanent structures in foreground areas with natural-appearing materials. Improvements, permanent structures, vegetation manipulation and ground-disturbing activities will be compatible with the natural landscape.	25	Yes	Guide-Scenic-2	
Visual Quality	Place timber markings on the side opposite the viewer along all roads and travel ways where practical.	25	Yes	Guide-Scenic-7	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Visual Quality	In mixed conifer foregrounds, maintain a variety of species, age classes and size classes through the use of various silvicultural prescriptions and stand marking guides.	25	Yes	Guide-Scenic-2	
Visual Quality	Dispose of all activity slash in the first 200 feet of Sensitivity Level 1 foregrounds.	25	Yes	Guide-Scenic-2 Guide-Scenic-4 Guide-Scenic-8	
Visual Quality	In pinyon/juniper foregrounds, retain or create diversity in pinyon/juniper stands by emphasizing open stands of mature trees (12 inches DBH or more) with a variety of other size classes. A minimum of 40 percent of the existing canopy should be retained. Openings and cutting practices should be compatible with visual quality and other objectives identified in the project environmental analysis.	25	Yes	DC- Veg-7 DC- Veg-9	
Visual Quality	Retain a mix of noncommercial species (oak, locust, etc.) in foreground areas, whenever these species are present.	25	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Recreation Administration	The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) as inventoried will be adopted as the forest objectives.	25	Yes	Guide-Rec-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Recreation Administration	These ROS objectives shall be changed if, as a result of an environmental analysis and subsequent forest supervisor decision, a different ROS class would better achieve the management objectives and goals for an area. These changes will be mapped and tracked for trend assessment during the first decade of Forest Plan implementation (1986-1995).	26	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Recreation Administration	<p>Changes in ROS inventory acreage shall conform to the following guidelines during any given time period (10 years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primitive (P) – No change • Semiprimitive Nonmotorized (SPNM) – No change in wilderness, + or – 10 percent on all other management areas. • Semiprimitive Motorized (SPM) – Change of + or – 10 percent • Roaded Natural Appearing (RNA) – Change of + 15 percent or – 10 percent. • Rural (R) – Change of + or – 5 percent. • Urban Class – No change. 	26	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Recreation Administration	A forest recreation opportunity guide (ROG) will be prepared during the first decade (1986-1995).	26	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Recreation Administration	Prohibit all camping for a period in excess of 14 days within a 30 consecutive day period within the national forest.	26	Yes	Guide-Rec-12	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Recreation Administration	<p>The following criteria will form the primary basis for determining if a land exchange proposal involving recreation residence tracts is in the public interest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed recreation residence site is not located in an environmentally sensitive and/or high public use area. 2. There is no likelihood that the area will be needed for a higher public use in the future. 3. Considering the length of history of occupation and interest of development of the site, there are no significant public resource values remaining that should be kept for overall public enjoyment. 4. Based on the relative number of residences, the relative level of development and condition of the improvements, etc., there is no likelihood that the site might be “recovered” and restored to near natural state through attrition over time at little or nominal cost to the Forest Service. 	26	No		Std-Lands-1, <i>New recreational residences shall not be established.</i>

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Recreation Administration	<p>5. Conveyance of the site into private ownership will not increase the need for law enforcement, solid waste disposal services, and/or other services already involving both Forest Service and local government agencies.</p> <p>6. Assuming that the land will be subject to State, county and local government zoning and other requirements for occupation and development of private lands, the local government does not object to exchange of the site into private ownership.</p> <p>7. Conveyance of the site into private ownership will not cause unacceptable environmental effects that would not be controlled by local zoning and other requirements governing occupation and development of private land, such as pollution to surface and ground water resources on the national forest.</p> <p>8. Conveyance of the site into private ownership will not require a change of management of the surrounding National Forest System land.</p> <p>9. Conveyance of the site will not create any right-of-way or road management problems for the Forest Service, or otherwise effectively block access to remaining National Forest System land, that cannot be solved by reservation of right-of-way to the U.S.</p> <p>10. Conveyance of the site will not obligate the Forest Service to additional management/development costs.</p> <p>11. Conveyance of the site into private ownership will simplify and improve efficiency of national forest administration.</p>	27	No		Std-Lands-1, <i>New recreational residences shall not be established.</i>

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Wildlife	All water developments will consider small game and nongame needs and escape devices.	27	Yes	Guide-WL-9 Std-Range-1	
Wildlife	All fencing will be to wildlife standards and consider local species needs.	27	Yes	Guide-WL-3 Guide-Range-2	
Wildlife	Whenever conflicts between wildlife species exist, when designing structural and nonstructural improvements, give priority to threatened and endangered species, sensitive species, emphasis species and comprehensive plan goals, in that order.	27	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy about how to prioritize wildlife species.
Wildlife	Maintenance of existing wildlife structures will be prioritized in the following manner: threatened and endangered species, sensitive species, emphasis species and comprehensive plan goals.	27	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy about how to prioritize wildlife species.
Wildlife	Structural maintenance will conform to the appropriate Forest Service Handbook.	27	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH).
Monitoring	Baseline data will be collected for the first 2 years of Forest Plan implementation and will be used to refine the current habitat capability model.	27	No		This direction was not carried over as it is specific to the 1987 Forest Plan.
Monitoring	Wildlife project objectives will specify what species and habitat requirements are being met.	27	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Monitoring	Environmental analyses where wildlife benefits are a primary project objective will specify: 1. The expected effects on indicator species and emphasis species 2. The expected effects on wildlife diversity 3. The expected effects on populations of nonemphasis species	27	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Monitoring	During the Forest Plan review and revision process, establish indicator species/plant associations with full public involvement.	28	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy under provisions of the 1982 planning rule that provide guidance for updating forest plans. This does not need to be repeated in the actual forest plan.
Monitoring	Encourage non-Forest Service expert involvement in development and implementation of wildlife monitoring plans.	28	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	
Wildlife	All revegetation projects will have site-specific development of seeding mixtures. Native, introduced, naturalized and hybrid species will be considered on their merits to meet site objectives. Where feasible, preference will be given to native species.	28	Yes	Guide-Veg-4	
Wildlife	Predator control will conform to applicable State and Federal laws.	28	No		This is outside of the scope of the revised Forest Plan. Predator control is not within the authority of the Forest Service.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Wildlife	Habitat management for Federally listed species will take precedence over unlisted species. Habitat management for endangered species will take precedence over threatened species. Habitat management for sensitive species will take precedence over nonsensitive species.	28	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Wildlife	Habitat components and capabilities will be updated every 10 years.	28	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology.
Wildlife	All forest projects will be reviewed for threatened and endangered species.	28	No		This is required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and as such duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Wildlife	Continue to survey for threatened and endangered species.	28	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Wildlife	Formal and informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented whenever the need is identified.	28	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Wildlife	All approved recovery plans will be implemented.	28	Yes	Guide-WL-1 Guide-Fish/Aquatics-1	
Wildlife	Prescott National Forest will continue cooperative efforts in the development of State strategies and comprehensive plans.	28	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	
Wildlife	Prescott National Forest will continue cooperative efforts and coordination on proposed projects with appropriate agencies.	28	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Wildlife	The following areas are designated essential habitat for spike dace (<i>Meda fulgida</i>): 1103Y050, 1104Y026, 1103Y075, 1J04Y000, 1G03Y075, 1H03Y050, 1H03Y000 (less the Hell Canyon portion).	28	No		This direction was not carried over as it is specific to the 1987 Forest Plan and these areas can change. The current direction is described in Guide-WL-1.
Wildlife	The following capability area is designated essential habitat for bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>): 5L07Y025.	28	No		This direction was not carried over as it is specific to the 1987 Forest Plan and these areas can change. The current direction is described in Guide-WL-2.
Wildlife	<p>No harvest activity will take place within 150 feet of any undifferentiated raptor nest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican Spotted Owl – Refer to Appendix F for standards and guidelines. • Northern Goshawk – Refer to Appendix G for standards and guidelines. • Cooper’s Hawk – 15 acres of unharvested area around nests. • Sharp-shinned hawk and osprey – 10 acres of unharvested area around active nests. • Bald eagle – a 300-foot unharvested buffer zone around winter roost. 	28	Yes	<p>Guide-WL-1 Guide-WL-2 Guide-WL-5 Guide-WL-7</p>	
Wildlife	Roosts and active nest sites will be protected by prohibiting any road development within close proximity (100 feet) of any unharvested or buffer zone.	29	Yes	<p>Guide-WL-1 Guide-WL-2 Guide-WL-4 Guide-WL-5 Guide-WL-7</p>	
Wildlife	Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department to develop implementation plans for the Arizona Cold Water Fisheries Strategic Plan.	29	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Wildlife	Exceed goals of the Arizona Comprehensive Wildlife Plan and Arizona Strategic Plan within management area emphasis and prescriptions and as additional funding or other opportunities present themselves.	29	No		The plans referred to are obsolete. The 2015 Prescott NF Forest Plan aligns with the AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20) and the 2012-2022 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). This is detailed in Tables 4 and 5 of Appendix C of the FEIS.
Wildlife	Support the goals and objectives of the Arizona Wildlife and Fisheries Comprehensive Plan as approved by the Southwestern Regional Forester and the Director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.	29	No		The plans referred to are obsolete. The 2015 Prescott NF Forest Plan aligns with the AZGFD Wildlife 20/20 Strategic Action Plan (WL 20/20) and the 2012-2022 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). This is detailed in Tables 4 and 5 of Appendix C of the FEIS.
Wildlife	Interdisciplinary planning, coordination and design will be conducted on all proposed forest projects.	29	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and duplicates existing Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Wildlife	<p>Nonstructural habitat improvement in ponderosa pine (MAs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearcuts will not exceed 40 acres except as provided in the Southwestern Regional Guide. • A maximum of 35 percent of an area shall be in natural or created openings as defined in the Southwestern Regional Guide. • Natural or created openings will no longer be considered openings when the crown cover exceeds 35 percent and the stocking level is greater than 150 trees per acre. Created opening will not be closer than 330 feet and will be spatially located to enhance wildlife. 	29	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged forest structure, not an uneven-aged structure as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. The desired conditions were developed in conjunction with the Southwestern Regional Office based on updated scientific information.
Old Growth	Refer to Appendix H for standards and guidelines and for structural attributes of old growth.	29	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 DC-Veg-6 DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-9 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-20	
Old Growth	Openings will not exceed 40 acres and will be irregularly shaped, utilizing topographic characteristics to enhance the edge effect and wildlife security requirements.	29	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Manual (FSM) as well as the National Forest Management Act of 1976.
Old Growth	Openings will be designed so that hiding cover is available within 600 feet.	29	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Old Growth	Openings will not exceed 40 percent of the habitat type within any management area. These openings will be dispersed so that they are no closer than 660 feet apart.	29	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology.
Old Growth	The following table defines structural stages of pinyon/juniper woodlands. (Table 9. P/J diameter classes)	29	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged forest structure, not an uneven-aged structure as described in DC-Veg 6 to 10. The desired conditions were developed in conjunction with the Southwestern Regional Office based on updated scientific information.
Old Growth	A minimum of 75 snags per 100 acres will be retained, as well as with appropriate replacements.	30	Yes	DC-Veg-6 DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-9 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17	
Old Growth	Screening cover will be left along all wildlife waters, travel ways and forest access roads.	30	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is a project-level decision.
Old Growth	Monarch alligator junipers will be marked as wildlife trees and preserved as roosts and snag replacements.	30	Yes	DC-Veg-6 DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-9 Guide-Veg-7	
Old Growth	Areas of poor watershed condition will be considered high priority for firewood harvest. Close, revegetate and drain access routes used for firewood harvests. Limit access to periods when soil conditions are such that permanent soil damage will not result.	30	Yes	Obj-18 Obj-21 Guide-WS-11 Guide-Soils-5	

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Riparian Areas (MAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)	Management projects within riparian areas will be in accordance with legal requirements regarding flood plains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, cultural and other resources and will be in accordance with standards and guidelines identified in the Southwestern Regional Guide.	30	Yes	DC-Watershed-1 DC-Watershed-2 DC-Watershed-6 Std-WS-1 Std-WS-3 Std-W&S-1 Std-W&S-2 Guide-WS-3 Guide-WS-5 Guide-WS-6 Guide-WS-7	
Riparian Areas (MAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)	Projects impacting riparian areas will be designed to protect the productivity and diversity of riparian-dependent resources. Emphasize protection of soil, water, vegetation, wildlife and fish resources.	30	Yes	DC-Watershed-1 DC-Watershed-2 DC-Watershed-6 Std-WS-1 Std-WS-3 Guide-WS-3 Guide-WS-5 Guide-WS-6 Guide-WS-7	
Riparian Areas (MAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)	Riparian-dependent resources will have preference over other resources. Other resource uses and activities may occur to the extent that they support the objective of riparian enhancement.	30	No		This direction was not carried over as it has the potential to conflict with the management of other resources such as habitat for federally listed species. This is a project-level decision.
Riparian Areas (MAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)	No discretionary vegetation manipulation will occur within 200 feet of identified riparian capability area boundaries except where the objective is to enhance downstream productivity.	30	Yes	DC-Watershed-1 Guide-WS-3 Guide-WS-4 Guide-WS-5	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Riparian Areas (MAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)	Riparian projects will be developed on a site-specific basis and in accordance with the Southwestern Regional Guidelines and Riparian Handbook.	30	No		This does not reflect current direction from the Southwestern Regional Office. The Southwestern Regional Guide was withdrawn and its standards no longer exist.
Riparian Areas (MAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)	<p>Meet the following riparian standards in the Southwestern Regional Guide for 80 percent of riparian areas by the year 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain at least 80 percent of the potential overstory crown closure of obligate riparian species. 	30	No		This does not reflect current direction from the Southwestern Regional Office. The Southwestern Regional Guide was withdrawn and its standards no longer exist.
Riparian Areas (MAs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage resources to create or maintain at least three age classes of woody riparian species with at least 10 percent of the woody plant cover in sprouts, seedlings and saplings where site potential exists. • Maintain at least 80 percent of the potential stream shading along perennial cold-water streams. • Maintain adequate emergent vegetation to ensure compliance with the goals of the strategic plan. • Maintain 80 percent of spawning gravel surface free of occlusive inorganic sediment. • Maintain at least 80 percent of streambank linear distance in stable condition. • Retain snags in riparian areas that are not a safety hazard. 	31	No		This does not reflect current direction from the Southwestern Regional Office. The Southwestern Regional Guide was withdrawn and its standards no longer exist.
Nonstructural Wildlife Habitat Improvements	Determine the need to rehabilitate riparian areas through seeding and planting woody species in areas that are in poor condition.	31	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Nonstructural Wildlife Habitat Improvements	Rehabilitate areas in poor condition where natural processes are ineffective within the planning horizon (1986-2035).	31	Yes	Obj-18 Obj-19	
Nonstructural Wildlife Habitat Improvements	Cooperate with Arizona Game and Fish Department on population control of aquatic plants and undesirable fish species. Permit fish stocking to meet State fisheries management goals.	31	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	
Structural Wildlife Habitat Improvements	Construct adequate exclosures to protect key riparian areas from livestock grazing where rest rotation or time control grazing fails to provide adequate protection to the riparian areas.	31	Yes	Guide-WS-4 Guide-WS-10 Std-Range-2 Guide-Range-5	
Structural Wildlife Habitat Improvements	Maintain riparian communities by providing water for wildlife and livestock away from sensitive areas.	31	Yes	Guide-WS-9	
Structural Wildlife Habitat Improvements	Establish representative administrative exclosures the first decade to determine riparian vegetation potential on representative streams.	31	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
General	The following cover standards and guidelines will apply in areas where threatened and endangered habitat requirements do not conflict. Habitat requirements for threatened and endangered species will take precedence over cover requirements for other species:	31	Yes	Guide-WL-1	
General	Design watershed improvement structures where possible to provide water for wildlife.	31	Yes	Guide-Range-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Grassland and Desert Shrub (MAs 2, 3 and 5 only)	A minimum of 10 percent of the shrub crown closure will be maintained for wildlife cover on all project areas.	31	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Grassland and Desert Shrub (MAs 2, 3 and 5 only)	Cover will be retained around wildlife waters, travel ways and forest access roads.	31	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Chaparral (MAs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only)	Chaparral treatment shall not exceed 1,500 acres on any single project, where consistent with natural fire control lines.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Chaparral (MAs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only)	A minimum of 30 percent of any project area will be retained to meet wildlife cover requirements (30-year-old trees with 70 percent crown density).	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Chaparral (MAs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only)	No burning out of islands is authorized except where identified hazards exist, for firebreak purposes or to enhance wildlife diversity.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Chaparral (MAs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only)	Treatment areas will be revegetated in grasses to prevent excessive soil loss and provide additional wildlife forage.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Chaparral (MAs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only)	Project areas will be designed to maximize habitat edge.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Chaparral (MAs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only)	Wildlife security cover will be retained around wildlife waters, travel ways and forest access roads.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Range Administration	Manage livestock grazing to achieve soil and water protection objectives. Make use of cost effective range improvements and management techniques.	32	No		This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and duplicates existing Forest Service policy.
Range Administration	Manage to bring all grazing allotments to satisfactory management by the end of the first decade (1986-1995). Satisfactory management occurs on allotments where management actions are proceeding according to a schedule (allotment management plan), which leads to fair or better range condition with an upward trend. Acres of satisfactory management are the total full capacity acres for a complete allotment within a management area being operated satisfactorily. Acres of unsatisfactory managed range are the total full capacity acres for complete allotments within a management area being operated unsatisfactorily.	32	No		This direction is outdated, unnecessarily prescriptive, and duplicative of existing Forest Service policy. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Range Administration	First priority for range program efforts will be given to bringing problem allotments to satisfactory management and stocking.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Range Administration	Document the rational for a management decision on problem allotments with an environmental assessment unless other types of documentation are deemed appropriate as a result of the scoping process and public involvement.	32	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
Range Administration	Control livestock grazing through management and/or fencing to allow for and favor adequate establishment of riparian vegetation and elimination of overuse.	32	Yes	Std-Range-2 Guide-Range-1 Guide-Range-5	
Range Administration	Negotiated agreements with permittees will be the primary method of achieving needed permit adjustments. Range inventories (including contracting) will be used as necessary for data to document needed adjustments, especially when negotiated agreements cannot be reached.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Range Administration	When negotiations fail to produce a consensus on livestock numbers and management methods, grazing numbers will be adjusted to existing capacity.	32	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision. Livestock numbers are not based on consensus but on resource conditions.
Range Administration	No adjustments will be undertaken that allow for prolonged maintenance of unsatisfactory watershed conditions or degradation of wildlife habitat.	33	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Range Administration	Adjust livestock numbers using the most expedient and defensible means available to accurately assess range capacity.	33	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and duplicates existing Forest Service policy.
Range Administration	Increased stocking will be permitted only as demonstrated capacity is created and management capability is proven. Any increased number must allow for protecting or enhancing long-term productivity of the land under the multiple-use concept. See FSH 2209.21 for further guidelines.	33	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH).
Range Administration	Refer to Appendix I for additional standards and guidelines.	33	Yes	DC-Veg-3 Std-Range-1 to 3 Guide-Range-1 to 6 Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
Range Administration	Update range analysis and development of management plans to R-3 Range Allotment Analysis Handbook Standards on 69 allotments. Updating intervals are dependent on management intensity identified within each management area. Table 10 shows the guidelines that will be used after capacity and permitted use are equal:	33	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
Range Administration	Conduct production/utilization studies at an interval commensurate with the assigned grazing intensity level to facilitate capacity determination, monitoring and control. Proper use will be monitored in or adjacent to riparian areas.	33	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Range Administration	Conduct annual allotment inspections to regional standards as set forth in FSH 2209.21.	33	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH).
Range Administration	Management of acres prescribed may be managed to a higher intensity where the permittee elects to incur additional expenses and where provisions for the appropriate level of monitoring can be made.	33	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Time Controlled Grazing	Utilize Region 3 Supplement 123 to FSM 2231.61 or its replacement to guide the establishment of time controlled grazing.	33	No		This direction is obsolete as there has been a shift to adaptive management for grazing allotments.
Time Controlled Grazing	<p>Livestock will be utilized to achieve soil and water protection objectives when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ability of livestock to achieve these objectives has been substantiated by verifiable monitoring and/or independent research; 2. Use of livestock is the most cost-effective means of achieving these objectives; and 3. Use of livestock will not lead to unacceptable levels of conflict with other resources or management area direction. 	34	No		This direction is obsolete as there has been a shift to adaptive management for grazing allotments.
Time Controlled Grazing	Time controlled grazing proposals will be analyzed with a full range of alternative methods for meeting resource and management area objectives and/or dealing with resource conflict issues. Alternatives will consider conventional systems and the existing methods with correct stocking.	34	No		This direction is obsolete as there has been a shift to adaptive management for grazing allotments.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Time Controlled Grazing	Assemble and utilize available information from research and monitoring to develop the projections for time controlled grazing proposals.	34	No		This direction is obsolete as there has been a shift to adaptive management for grazing allotments.
Time Controlled Grazing	Design monitoring to assess accomplishment of management area and time controlled grazing proposal objectives. Make monitoring results available to the public.	34	No		This direction is obsolete as there has been a shift to adaptive management for grazing allotments.
Cooperative Range Management	Forest officers will advise prospective permittees of condition and trend of grazing allotments referencing the best available information. Any proposed stocking or management changes will be identified to prospective permittees.	34	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Cooperative Range Management	Cooperation with other agencies is encouraged to promote more rapid improvement in management and range condition.	34	No		Cooperation with other agencies is a standard practice in range management. This direction is not appropriate for the forest plan.
Range Improvement	Utilize FSM 2241.11 to develop priorities for use of Range Betterment Funds. Focus on problem allotments, without precluding opportunities to prevent problems or improve productivity on other allotments. A full range of alternatives will be evaluated through the NEPA process.	34	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Manual (FSM).
Range Improvement	Construct and replace structural range improvements as needed to manage at prescribed levels on a 50-year cycle. If a more cost-effective alternative to replacement is available, it may be implemented. Priority for expenditure of funds for new structural range improvements will be determined by range analysis and the allotment management plan system.	34	No		This direction is obsolete as range management is no longer based on a 50-year cycle.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Range Improvement	Ensure permittee maintenance of existing structural improvements on an annual basis to ensure full life of projects.	34	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Range Improvement	Permittee investment will be encouraged by giving priority to projects that contain at least equal value contributions by the grazing permittee.	34	No		This direction is obsolete as there has been a subsequent change in Forest Service policy.
Range Improvement	Allow additional investment in nonstructural range improvements contingent upon receipt of funding above the level programmed. Sources for this additional funding would include increased Range Betterment Fund availability, extra appropriations, or contributions from permittees above the projected level.	34	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Range Improvement	Control insect or disease outbreaks when they become epidemic by mechanical, biological or chemical methods. Method utilized will be determined through the NEPA process and cost analysis.	35	No		This direction is obsolete and was not carried over. Current direction allows for control before populations reach epidemic proportions.
Range Riparian Protection	Eliminate yearlong grazing in riparian areas.	35	Yes	Std-Range-2	
Range Riparian Protection	Implement grazing systems and/or methods that will advance the ecological objectives for riparian dependent resources, and require sufficient recovery rest to meet the physiological needs of the plants and plant associations.	35	Yes	Guide-WS-9 Guide-Range-5 Guide-Range-6	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Range Riparian Protection	Riparian areas within a watershed will be managed at an intensity commensurate with that typical of the rest of the watershed.	35	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Range Riparian Protection	Complete an inventory and survey of riparian areas within the first 2 years.	35	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
Range Riparian Protection	Proper allowable use within riparian areas will not exceed 20 percent on woody species.	35	Yes	Guide-Range-5	
Range Riparian Protection	Salting within a quarter mile of riparian areas for the purpose of livestock is prohibited. This includes the use of salt to gather livestock.	35	Yes	Guide-Range-1	
Resource Protection and Mitigation	Meet threatened and endangered species requirements in all range or grazing activities.	35	No		This is required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and as such duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Resource Protection and Mitigation	Livestock will be excluded from Granite Basin Lake, Lynx Lake and Horsethief Lake.	35	Yes	Forest Plan Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
Resource Protection and Mitigation	Encourage nonuse for resource protection purposes when adverse range conditions are prevalent.	35	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Resource Protection and Mitigation	Unauthorized livestock on National Forest System lands may be impounded and disposed of by forest officers. Enforce grazing regulations found in 36 CFR and Title 18 USC dealing with livestock management.	35	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Resource Protection and Mitigation	Allow appropriate predator control measures where livestock losses are documented and exceed the cost of control.	35	No		This is outside of the scope of the revised Forest Plan. Predator control is not within the authority of the Forest Service.
Range Forage Improvement	Permittee investment will be encouraged by giving priority to projects that contain at least equal value contributions by the grazing permittee.	35	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	All timber sales will be planned utilizing integrated resource management (IRM).	36	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is also obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology.
Timber	Inventory timber lands every 10 years. Maintain a continuous 10-year timber harvest schedule. Review the classification of unsuitable timber every 10 years.	36	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Timber	Continue to complete compartment examinations to regional standards to provide data for detailed stand prescriptions and to monitor Forest Plan results.	36	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Priorities of stands for timber management treatment will be based on silvicultural examinations, stand diagnosis and environmental analyses for project areas.	36	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Timber	Protect regeneration areas from browsing and trampling damage by livestock until stands are established, using such means as fencing, adjustments in season of use, reducing cattle numbers and other methods that protect seedlings.	36	Yes	Guide-Range-3 Guide-Range-6	
Timber	Monitor reforestation sites 1, 3 and 5 years after planting to ensure adequate stocking. Planting will be preceded by site preparation. Planting may be by machine, auger, hand tools or a combination of these.	36	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Use natural regeneration on all timber harvest areas where possible. If natural regeneration is unsuccessful, artificial regeneration will be used.	36	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Timber	Evaluate for reforestation potential lands classified as suitable but which are currently unstocked or understocked. Artificially reforest these lands if environmentally and economically feasible.	36	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Timber	After fire or harvest, assure regeneration by natural or artificial means to meet regional standards.	36	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Site preparation can be accomplished by chemical, mechanical or prescribed fire methods as best suits the site to be treated. Site preparation method will be determined through the NEPA process and cost analysis.	36	No		This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Timber	The forest will be managed primarily using uneven-aged silvicultural systems. The need for using other management systems will be evaluated during the Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process.	36	No		Although the revised plan provides direction for uneven-aged silvicultural systems, the Integrated Resource Management (IRM) process is obsolete.
Timber	Uneven-aged management will be used in specific cases where landscape and resource objectives are not efficiently met with even-aged management. These cases would include development of old growth characteristics, visual quality needs and/or wildlife habitat requirements. Other departures from even-aged management must be silviculturally prescribed to meet management area objectives and will be subject to comparison with even-aged treatments as well as alternative forms of uneven-aged treatments.	36	No		This direction is obsolete and was not carried over as it does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This focuses management towards an even-aged forest structure, not an uneven-aged structure.
Timber	Complete sale planning, design and layout. Appraise, advertise open bids, and make sale awards on sales scheduled for 1986-1995.	36	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
Timber	Minimum harvest volumes will normally be 500 board feet or 2 cords per acre. This may be modified, depending on the needs of other resources and management area direction.	36	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
Timber	The minimum re-entry period will be 20 years. The maximum re-entry period will be 40 years.	37	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Timber	Minimum sawtimber size will be 9 inches DBH.	37	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Rotation of regenerated stands will be 90 to 240 years for ponderosa pine.	37	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Use intermediate cuts in immature stands to maintain growing stock levels (GSL) of 40 to 90square feet per acre unless other stocking is prescribed in detailed stand prescriptions to meet management objectives.	37	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Use sanitation and salvage cutting practices on unsuitable timber when this does not conflict with wildlife objectives.	37	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Limit tractor/crawler logging equipment to slopes less than 40 percent.	37	Yes	Guide-Soils-3 Guide-Soils-4	
Timber	Openings created through harvest of timber or firewood will not exceed 40 acres in size.	37	Yes	Std-FP-2	
Timber	Stands on tentatively suitable acres that are mixed conifer (based upon silvicultural examination and habitat typing data) will not normally be harvested unless project NEPA documentation indicates otherwise.	37	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	Plan, design and construct or reconstruct a road system that optimizes safety, economical access and resource protection.	37	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Timber	On all commercial timber sales of ponderosa pine, require removal of all unutilized portions of the main bole larger than 4 inches diameter inside bark to reduce the possibility of <i>ips</i> beetle infestation.	37	Yes	Guide-FP-2	
Timber	<p>The following silvicultural prescriptions for shelterwood cuts will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed cut to approximately 30 GSL. • Prepare site during seed cut at age 90 to 240 years. • Remove all overstory that will not blend in with the 0- to 40-year-age classes. • Zero to three commercial (intermediate) cuts to maintain growth, thermal cover and hiding cover. 	37	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	Forest products such as Christmas trees, posts, poles and vigas will be available from suitable and unsuitable lands if removal does not conflict with other resource objectives.	37	Yes	DC-Veg-2	
Timber	Salvage harvesting operations will be prescribed as needed to meet conditions imposed by wildfires, insect and disease infestations, blowdown or other catastrophes, and will not be subject to a 40-acre size limitation.	37	Yes	Std-FP-2	
Timber	Administer commercial timber sales, firewood sales, permits for forest products and miscellaneous forest product sales. This activity includes accountability, financial management, field inspections, and contract interpretation and enforcement.	37	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Timber	Close all local roads not essential for management needs upon completion of sale and firewood activities.	37	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	Environmental analysis for timber/firewood sales will:	37			*** <u>COMBINE THIS WITH BELOW</u> !!!
Timber	1. Establish harvest objectives; 2. Establish access alternatives which disclose soil loss and stability figures for each; 3. Establish why non-timber values are needed; 4. Demonstrate why timber harvest is the best means of meeting the objectives; and 5. Explore other means of meeting objectives.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	Provide for public information on the availability of firewood and the limits of its supply.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to provide information. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	Complement enforcement of county leash laws through public education and use of permit requirements for firewood harvest.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to provide information. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Timber	Firewood harvest planning will include provisions for road closure. Funding will be collected or programmed as required to effect closures of temporary roads.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	The forest will continue the present firewood season as established (yearlong, subject to weather conditions).	38	No		This direction was not carried forward due to resource conflicts with year-round wood permits.
Timber	Firewood harvest from areas requiring structural measures to control erosion will focus on long-term stability of the soil and not the production of wood fiber or range forage.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Timber	Maintain cone collection programs to meet artificial reforestation needs by seed zone.	38	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Continue selection of superior tree and seed areas as needed for testing of genetic improvement.	38	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Timber	Detect and monitor insect and disease activities. Control if necessary to protect resources or uses. The method of control utilized will be determined through the NEPA process and cost analysis.	38	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 Obj-6 Std-Veg-2 Guide-Veg-2 Guide-Veg-3 Guide-Rec-4	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil, Water, and Air	Conduct a terrestrial ecosystem inventory to standards of the R-3 Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey Procedure at Level III by the end of the first decade (1986-1995) with the assistance of the Arizona Zone Crew. Inventory 500,000 to 600,000 acres per decade to obtain or update information, and to characterize soil and water resources for land and resource management planning.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies. This duplicates existing Forest Service policy.
Soil, Water, and Air	Complete watershed condition inventory and analysis for NFS watersheds in priority order.	38	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Soil, Water, and Air	Develop plans for soil and water resources that will stabilize soil and control streamflows. By 1996, prepare plans for each of the 13 watersheds and subwatersheds on the forest, in priority order.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
Soil, Water, and Air	Prepare risk analyses, utilizing assumptions as appropriate for watershed plans where insufficient scientific data exists.	38	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
Soil, Water, and Air	Continue special soil and water resource studies at Battle Flat to monitor the effects of water yield improvement work.	38	No		This direction is obsolete as the project has been completed.
Soil, Water, and Air	Plan and conduct moisture and temperature regime and other studies to upgrade soil classification data and improve soil interpretation.	38	No		This direction is obsolete as the project has been completed.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil, Water, and Air	<p>Implement water yield improvement plans by treating 13,255 acres of chaparral per decade between 1986 and 2035. Treat chaparral in accordance with the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 70 percent of any contiguous stand will be treated at one time. • Cleared spaces between untreated blocks will not exceed a quarter mile across. • Treatments will be less than 20 percent of a fifth-code watershed within a decade. 	39	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology.
Soil, Water, and Air	<p>Implement watershed condition improvement plans to stabilize soils and improve streamflow characteristics. Conform treatments to the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures will be implemented on portions of the watersheds that are in unsatisfactory condition. • Causes of unsatisfactory conditions will be corrected. • Grazing use will be balanced with respect to range capacity prior to and after the implementation of watershed improvements. • Firewood harvest from areas requiring structural measures to control erosion will focus upon long-term stability of the soil and not the production of wood fiber or range forage. 	39	Yes	<p>Obj-18 Guide-WS-1 Guide-Soils-1 Std-Range-2 Guide-Range-5 Guide-Range-6</p>	
Soil, Water, and Air	Administer all prepared watershed plans in coordination with Federal, State and local governments.	39	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil, Water, and Air	Obtain water rights for developments that provide water for forest uses.	39	No		This specific direction was not carried over. The intent was unclear as there is no definition for "developments that provide water for forest uses".
Soil, Water, and Air	Prepare resource inventory reports to summarize inventories and facilitate preparation of watershed management plans.	39	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies. This direction is also obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology.
Soil, Water, and Air	Maintain forest water rights by: (1) updating inventories of water use rights and requirements; (2) participating in adjudications; and (3) managing acquired rights for protection of the beneficial uses that are stated in the right.	39	Yes	Obj-31	
Soil, Water, and Air	Minimize impacts to soil and water resources in all ground-disturbing activities. Where disturbance cannot be avoided, provide stabilization and revegetation as part of the project.	39	Yes	Guide-Soils-1 Guide-Soils-5	
Soil, Water, and Air	Documentation of environmental analyses for ground-disturbing activities will include discussion of expected effects on water quality, describe specific mitigation measures that will be taken, and describe water quality monitoring that will be conducted as part of the projects.	39	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil, Water, and Air	<p>Select treatment methods for plant control or revegetation projects according to the following criteria:</p> <p>1. Mechanical methods may be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On slopes less than 40 percent; • On soils with moderate or high revegetation potential; and • When they will not adversely affect stream channels. 	39	Yes	<p>Guide-WS-4</p> <p>Guide-WS-8</p> <p>Guide-Soils-3</p>	
Soil, Water, and Air	<p>2. Chemical treatments may be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On soils with moderate or high revegetation potential; • On areas that would benefit from selective control of plant species; • On areas where the chemicals will not violate State water quality law; and • On areas outside legislative municipal watershed and human habitation. 	40	Yes	<p>Std-Veg-2</p> <p>Guide-Veg-2</p>	
Soil, Water, and Air	<p>3. Fire treatment may be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the fire will not pose a threat to human safety or surrounding property; • Preferably on slopes less than 40 percent; • On soils with moderate or high revegetation potential or leaving 40 percent vegetative cover on low revegetation potential sites; • On areas with suitable fuel types; and • On areas where the proper vegetative response can be expected. 	40	Yes	<p>Guide-WS-4</p> <p>Guide-Soils-1</p> <p>Guide-Soils-4</p> <p>Guide-Wildland Fire-1</p> <p>Guide-Wildland Fire-2</p>	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil, Water, and Air	4. Biological controls may be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On areas with suitable host types, and • On areas that would benefit from selective control of plant species. 	40	Yes	Std-Veg-2 Guide-Veg-2	
Soil, Water, and Air	5. Hand treatment should be used on areas where the other methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would disturb fragile soils on steep slopes; or • Would cause other unacceptable impacts; or • Would pose threats to human health or safety; or • Would be too costly. 	40	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil, Water, and Air	<p>Through the use of best management practices, the adverse effect of planned activities will be mitigated and site productivity maintained. These practices are determined (after problem assessment, examination of alternatives and appropriate review by local or State agencies and public participation) to be the most effective practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollutants generated by nonpoint sources to levels compatible with water quality goals. Use these practices for activities affecting the forest and grassland resource, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Installation of water control structures and/or interseed on unsatisfactory condition ranges where revegetation potential is moderately high to high on slopes less than 40 percent. 2. Designation of stream courses within timber sales to protect watershed values. This protection will include controls on skidding within riparian areas and along or across designated stream courses. 3. Rehabilitation to minimize loss of site productivity following activities or wildfire. 	40	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and partially duplicates existing Forest Service policy.
Soil, Water, and Air	Maintain watershed structures when discounted benefits of watershed protection exceed discounted costs of maintenance.	40	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Soil, Water, and Air	Maintain all watershed improvements in a safe and operable condition.	40	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Soil, Water, and Air	Maintain high quality visual conditions. The form, line, texture and color of characteristic landscapes will be clearly distinguishable when viewed as middle ground. Cultural resources and ecosystems will remain unmodified by air pollutants. Determine baseline information and the background condition of the above air quality related values and specify limits of acceptable change that will affirmatively protect these values in Class I areas.	40	Yes	DC-Airshed-1	
Soil, Water, and Air	Perform prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permit application reviews to determine the potential effect increased emissions from major stationary sources will have on air quality related values (AQRV) of National Forest Class I areas. Impacts of air pollution generating activities will be predicted using current modeling techniques.	41	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects.
Soil, Water, and Air	Assist and coordinate with the State in developing and applying air quality and smoke management standards.	41	Yes	DC-Airshed-1	
Minerals	Undertake mineral examinations and contest actions on claims where occupancy and/or development is not in keeping with the mining laws.	41	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Minerals	Locate borrow areas and quarries where they will serve long-term needs. Unless project level analysis indicates an alternate use, borrow pits will be returned to characteristic landscape form and vegetative cover at the end of the project, and quarries will be returned to characteristic form and cover as much as possible.	41	Yes	Guide-Minerals Materials-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Minerals	Inventory and designate sources for common variety minerals such as sand and gravel for private, city, county, State and other Federal use. Sources will be designated through the NEPA process and will consider the economics of choice.	41	Yes	Guide-Minerals Materials-3	
Minerals	Provide common variety mineral materials for local, county, State and forest roads on the forest or that provide access to the forest. Material will be made available for other roads only upon adequate documentation that other sources are not available and visual quality impacts are of an acceptable level.	41	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Minerals	Require special stipulations for oil and gas leases only where needed for special resource protection.	41	No		This direction is not applicable and was not carried over. There is no potential for oil or gas production on the Prescott NF.
Minerals	Recommend oil and gas leasing without surface occupancy for all developed recreation sites and electronic sites.	41	No		This direction is not applicable and was not carried over. There is no potential for oil or gas production on the Prescott NF.
Minerals	Require a reclamation bond adequate to cover the reclamation cost in all plans of operation approved under the 36 CFR 228 regulations.	41	Yes	Std-Locatable Minerals-3	
Minerals	Cooperate with the State to inventory and mitigate hazardous abandoned mine workings.	41	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Minerals	Mineral material will be made available for personal and commercial use when it has been determined through an environmental analysis that it will not be in substantial conflict with other resources or activities.	41	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction.
Minerals	Revegetation plans will be prepared for all new mineral material sources. Existing pits that have not been utilized as a source for mineral materials for 2 years will require a revegetation plan before approval will be granted to new permittees. Visual impact assessments will accompany all new mineral material pit proposals.	41	Yes	Std-Minerals Materials-1	
Human and Community Development	Continue to maintain the forest human resource program as dictated by budget and economics.	42	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Human Resource Management. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Human resource programs are centrally managed through the Albuquerque Service Center.
Human and Community Development	Maintain and expand opportunities for enrollees (volunteers and other human resource program participants).	42	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	Authorizations for special uses may be issued to qualified applicants when the proposed use: (a) fulfills a demonstrated special need without unduly infringing on the use by the general public; (b) is in accordance with an approved implementation plan (where called for) and will not cause adverse impacts on the national forest and its resources which cannot be fully mitigated; (c) does not serve a function that can be provided by private enterprise off national forest lands; and (d) is complimentary to Forest Service and management area objectives, programs and purposes.	42	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Lands	Respond to applications for new permits, amendments, documents and leases within 30 days of receipt. Administer all existing permits.	42	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Lands	Review special use permit fees as per FSM 2715.25.	42	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Manual (FSM).
Lands	Utility corridors may be authorized after an environmental analysis is conducted (first) on unclassified areas and (second) on avoidance areas. A corridor plan will be prepared during the second decade to consider future needs.	42	Yes	Guide-Lands-1	
Lands	Requests for utility corridors will be coordinated to locate needed facilities within existing corridors where feasible. Design and construction practices will meet the standards defined in "National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2, Chapter 2," USDA Handbook 478.	42	Yes	Guide-Lands-5	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	Require Rural Electrification Administration (REA) specifications for raptor protection on permitted power lines during construction and reconstruction.	42	Yes	Guide-Lands-5	
Lands	Require burial of new utility lines in all foreground areas of retention or partial retention VQO areas along State and Federal highways, unless an environmental analysis indicates that it would be unfeasible.	42	Yes	Guide-Lands-5	
Lands	Requests for authorization to construct or reconstruct any structure or facility must be accompanied by three sets of professionally prepared plans or three sets of plans which reflect professional standards.	42	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Lands	New construction and reconstruction must meet or exceed all applicable codes.	42	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Lands	Efforts will be made to consolidate new electronic site proposals on currently approved sites. Recommendations to the Regional Forester on undesignated electronic site classifications will be made after a comprehensive environmental analysis indicates such occupancy will not compromise other national forest management objectives.	42	Yes	Guide-Lands-4 Guide-Lands-5	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	Continue to maintain the following electronic sites for public, private and other agency use: Hickey Mountain, Mingus Mountain, South Mingus Mountain, Towers Mountain, Horsethief, Sierra Prieta, Tonto Mountain, Alto Divide, Mount Francis, Wolverton Mountain, Spruce Mountain, Mount Davis, Mount Elliott, Mount Union, Mount Tritel, Squaw Peak, Hyde Mountain, Wildflower and Onion Mountain.	42	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction.
Lands	Use will be limited to these sites except in cases where national defense and/or public safety may be adversely affected.	43	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction.
Lands	<p>Electronic sites will be managed to the following standards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximize joint use of existing buildings. 2. Lot plans as presently established will be eliminated. Sites will be allocated on a total required facility basis. 3. Maintenance of individual site roads and trails will be carried out jointly through cooperative maintenance payments proportionate to the amount of use or will be maintained by the users. 4. Clearing of vegetation will be limited to that which poses a hazard to facilities and operational efficiency. 5. Commercial broadcasting and constant carriers will be allowed where compatible. These sites must be physically separated from land mobile and microwave sites. Any potential electromagnetic interference must be resolved before construction can proceed. Microwave corridors will be protected. 6. VHF transmitters will be permitted if 	43	Yes	Guide-Lands-4	

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
	<p>frequencies are compatible with those of previous users. (Authorize only specified frequencies and not wide-range bands on 2700-10 Technical Data Sheets.)</p> <p>7. All new and replacement towers must be self supporting.</p> <p>8. New towers and tower additions will not be authorized if they adversely affect the fire tower uts line of sight.</p> <p>9. All utility lines will be placed underground.</p> <p>10. Any prospective permittee desiring a site shall furnish detailed plans of buildings and antenna support structures to the district ranger for approval. All towers will meet Electronic Industries Association standard RS-222-C (structural standards for steel antenna towers). These plans will show the relationship of the proposed building and antenna to other facilities in the area, along with manufacturer's specifications for pment to be used.</p> <p>11. All sites will conform to VQOs and forest color standards. All structures will be colored to blend with the background.</p>				
Lands	<p>Additionally, the following guidelines will be applied to electronic site permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage formation of user improvement associations and administer sites in cooperation with associations. • Incorporate site operation technical standards in permits developed by user groups after being reviewed and recommended by the forest supervisor. • Implement cooperatively-developed site management standards for each site to provide for frequency and power separation. 	43	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	Grant permits or easements for road and utility access to interior private land only if other practical routes are unavailable on private land and impact on the forest is acceptable as a result.	44	Yes	Guide-Lands-1	
Lands	Roads needed for private land access, special uses or mineral activities will be built and maintained by the permittee on permanent locations, to the minimum standards for the intended use, and will be closed, drained and revegetated after use.	44	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Lands	On lands identified for exchange, prohibit encumbrances and investment, which will reduce future disposal opportunities.	44	Yes	Guide-Lands-3	
Lands	Allow only one access road for subdivision access unless natural features dictate otherwise and where there is no suitable private land alternative or where additional access is needed for public safety.	44	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Lands	Pursue mineral withdrawals on potential and existing electronic sites. Electronic site withdrawals will be completed by the end of 2005.	44	Yes	Std-Locatable Minerals-1	
Lands	Maintain land status records by updating as changes occur.	44	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	<p>Locate and post land survey monuments and property lines according to the following priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resource management projects 2. Encroachments and title claims 3. Potential trespass prevention 4. Other areas 	44	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Lands	Complete the entire forest by the end of 2035.	44	No		This direction is outdated and was not carried over.
Lands	<p>Survey and post an average of 28 miles of national forest land lines per year in conformance with national standards during the first time period. Priorities are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where proposed projects are adjacent to private land 2. Areas of known and potential trespass 3. Backlog 	44	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Lands	Locate and post all land lines needed for outputs at least 2 years in advance of resource output production years.	44	No		This direction is outdated and was not carried over.
Lands	Surface-disturbing resource projects will require a search for and protection of land monuments.	44	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Lands	Request BLM resurveys where section corners have not been brasscapped. The highest priority is in complex land patterns where development is taking place.	44	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Lands	Update the land line location atlas as additional corners are found and the boundary is posted.	44	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	Continue to take action on unauthorized occupancy.	44	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Lands	Review land classification and determine the need for land adjustment to meet management objectives of providing for community expansion and logical boundary adjustment.	44	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Lands	<p>Respond to land exchange proposals as presented. Seek to acquire all private holdings meeting one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lands within designated wilderness 2. Lands that contain vital threatened and endangered species habitat or vital wildlife habitat (i.e. eagle nesting sites) 3. Lands needed for developed and dispersed recreation 4. Wetlands, riparian areas and other water-oriented lands 5. Lands that contain unique, natural or cultural values 6. Lands that will improve public land management, meet specific administrative needs, or benefit other national forest programs 7. Lands that provide needed access, protect public lands from fire or trespass, or prevent damage to forest land resources 8. Lands that need rehabilitation or stabilization to restore their productivity 9. Lands that are needed to consolidate public land ownership or meet research needs 10. Lands that are needed to meet programs prescribed or endorsed by acts or reports of Congress or the Department of Agriculture 	45	Yes	Guide-Lands-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
	11. Inholdings that contain needed rights-of-way and will contribute to the forest resource management base.				
Lands	<p>Lands offered by the United States in land exchange are tentatively classified as base-in-exchange. Because local and physical conditions may change during the life of this Forest Plan, those lands classified in this plan and any others that may be considered will generally meet one or more of the following criteria and those in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) regulations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lands needed to meet the needs of expanding communities 2. Isolated tracts or scattered parcels that cannot be efficiently managed 3. Provide for consolidation of public lands 4. Improve management, benefit specific resources, or increase management efficiency 5. Meet overriding public needs 	45	Yes	Guide-Lands-3	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	<p>The acquisition programs will be achieved through purchase, exchange and donation authorities. The purchase program centers around the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (L&WCFA) that designates lands within the following categories that are eligible for acquisition utilizing L&WCFA funds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Congressionally designated areas 2. Wilderness 3. Threatened and endangered species habitat 4. Recreation acquisition composites and inholdings 	45	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (L&WCFA) and Forest Service policy.
Lands	<p>The basic goals of the composite program are to provide for lands needed for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construction of public recreation facilities, 	45	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (L&WCFA) and Forest Service policy.
Lands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Dispersed recreation and open space, 3. Protection of public recreation resources, and 4. Prevention of private usurpation of public resources and facilities on nearby public land. 	46	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (L&WCFA) and Forest Service policy.
Lands	Essentially all of the lands identified for acquisition with L&WCFA funds are also eligible for acquisition by exchange or donations, and will be acquired by these authorities when the opportunity arises and when appropriate.	46	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (L&WCFA) and Forest Service policy.
Lands	The donation authorities are applicable for any of the lands that meet the acquisition criteria.	46	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (L&WCFA) and Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Lands	Acquire rights-of-way as needed to meet resource outputs or resolve legal status deficiencies. Priority for rights-of-way acquisition are as follows: 1. Administration of national forest lands 2. Public access to national forest lands 3. Timber harvest	46	Yes	DC-Lands-1 Obj-30 Guide-Lands-1	
Lands	Review the forest base map annually and update on an 8-year interval to maintain accuracy.	46	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on outdated methodology.
Land Management Planning	Develop and maintain a forest plan and forest database in compliance with NFMA and NEPA.	46	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Facilities	Provide for forest-wide transportation planning, preconstruction engineering and construction engineering on arterial roads, collector roads, local roads, bridges and major culverts.	46	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Facilities	Review and update the Prescott National Forest Road Management Plan annually to ensure that the transportation system meets the needs and management intent of the respective management areas.	46	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Facilities	Roads needed to provide sole access to private land, special uses or mineral activities will be built on permanent locations and maintained by the permittee to minimum standards for the intended use and will be closed, drained and revegetated after use.	46	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Facilities	Local terminal roads will be constructed with a 12-foot width unless environmental and economic analyses show a difference is justified.	46	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Facilities	Design roads so that straight alignment does not exceed one-half mile.	47	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Facilities	Emphasize relocating roads out of canyon bottoms during construction and reconstruction activities.	47	Yes	Guide-Trans-1 Guide-Trans-6	
Facilities	Construct or reconstruct arterial roads, collector roads, local roads, bridges and major culverts to ensure user safety and to a level commensurate with the use and need.	47	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Facilities	Prohibit road construction on unstable soils and slopes greater than 40 percent if it cannot be done in a manner that maintains or enhances water quality (sediment or chemical) and quantity objectives.	47	Yes	Guide-Soils-4 Guide-Trans-1 Guide-Trans-6	
Facilities	Maintain arterial, collector and local roads, bridges and major culverts to ensure user safety and to a level commensurate with existing road standards.	47	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Facilities	Require user maintenance on roads that serve non-forest facilities and property.	47	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Facilities	Solidify jurisdictional responsibility for roads by issuing USDA easements to the State and counties. Cooperate with the counties to determine roads for which they should obtain ROWs. Acquire ROWs for forest roads. Continue cooperative agreements with local, State and Federal agencies.	48	Yes	Obj-30 Guide-Lands-1	
Facilities	Clearing of vegetation along rights-of-way and around facilities and special use sites will be limited to that which poses a hazard to the facility and operational efficiency. Methods will include mechanical, hand and herbicide methods, using selection criteria in F03.	48	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Facilities	Maintain a transportation system inventory for all forest roads. Operate and maintain the road system according to prescribed maintenance levels. Public safety, resource protection and seasonal use will be emphasized, with user comfort being a secondary consideration.	48	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Facilities	Accommodate user traffic by a designated system of roads and trails. A signing system will be designed with positive emphasis and informational signs at termini.	48	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Facilities	All roads and trails shown on the “official access policy” map overlay will be signed.	48	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.
Facilities	The Federal signing direction contained in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices will be used.	48	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Manual (FSM).
Facilities	The regional signing policy will be used, with special attention given to compliance with the “Guide for Traffic Control Devices on Forest Development Roads.”	48	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in Forest Service Southwestern Region guidance.
Facilities	Forest informational and directional signs and route markers will conform to FSH 7109.31 and FSH 7109.11 (Signs Handbook).	48	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH).
Facilities	Particular attention will be given to the regional policy of vertical signing for roads not suitable for passenger cars and horizontal signing for roads suitable for passenger cars.	48	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in Forest Service Southwestern Region guidance.
Facilities	Only the minimum number of signs should be used to guide, regulate and warn the user.	48	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Facilities	The sign policy for trails will be positive, indicating permitted activities.	48	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Facilities	Required forest signing will be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 1991.	48	Yes	Obj-12	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Facilities	Close, obliterate or restore those roads and travel ways identified for such action through the integrated resource management process with full public involvement. Closure will be effected by physical barriers and/or signing. See Table 13 for the schedule of road closures.	48	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Facilities	The inventory of roads to be closed is maintained on an overlay of the official access policy map.	49	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.
Facilities	Federal regulations and closures will be minimized to those considered absolutely necessary to meet management requirements. Once designated and approved, the regulations will be enforced.	49	No		This direction has been superseded by the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) developed under national guidance found in the Travel Management Rule.
Facilities	<p>The following road control options are used on the Prescott National Forest:</p> <p>Roads where use is discouraged – There are roads where maintenance level 3 cannot or will not be attained due to low standards. Also, there may be instances where single-lane roads can accommodate commercial haul to the extent mixed traffic (recreation and general forest) would increase traffic hazards, but not to the extent the hazard would be unacceptable.</p> <p>Roads with user restrictions without formal order Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) – This is used in temporary situations where public use restrictions are needed for high safety hazards where closure devices are ineffective, such as for</p>	49	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
	<p>road construction, logging operations or road damage. Road closed wording can be used only in an advisory way (for example, “Road Closed For Logging Operations”).</p> <p>CFR closure – Used where consequences to the public user, road investments or forest resources are significant. Closure will be by barricade, gate or physical structure. The closure procedure is described in 36 CFR 261.</p> <p>Roads put to bed – Used where management prescribes inactivation of the road for short-term or intermittent use, or when the road is no longer needed and is maintained in an inactive state until the roadbed is obliterated naturally or by mechanical measures. Barriers will consist of native materials to block or obscure the road entrance.</p> <p>Road obliteration – The objective of obliteration is to return the road to natural resource production. R-3 Supplement 22, FSM 7705.13 specifies the actions necessary to obliterate a road. These include removal of drainage devices, reshaping to provide natural drainage, revegetating the road and blocking to restrict traffic.</p>				

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Facilities	As of August 1989, Chino Valley district had 362 roads to be closed, totaling 363 miles. Bradshaw District had 354 roads totaling 248 miles, and Verde district had 82 roads totaling 53 miles. The forest totals are 798 roads to be closed, totaling 664 miles. These roads will be closed on an opportunity basis. This means that when equipment is in the area for other projects and the road is scheduled for machine obliteration, an effort will be made to include the road obliteration. Some projects are on a road scheduled for obliteration or closure. In these cases, the road closure will be part of the project plan. Approximately 174 miles of roads are scheduled for closure in 1986-1995.	50	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
Facilities	Maintain a transportation system inventory for all forest trails. Operate and maintain the trail system according to prescribed maintenance levels.	50	Yes	DC-Rec-2 Trails DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Facilities	Provide for preconstruction and construction engineering for the forest trail system.	50	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Facilities	Construct and reconstruct trails to develop a desirable system for the protection, management and enjoyment of the Prescott National Forest.	50	Yes	DC-Rec-2 Trails	
Facilities	Determine FA&O facilities needed by evaluating each forest unit's space needs based upon the organization's workforce needs.	50	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Facilities	Provide appropriate access for people with all types of disabilities when constructing or reconstructing facilities.	50	No		This is required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and as such duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Facilities	Incorporate interpretive site plans into the planning and development of recreation capital investment projects. The site narrative for each project will include the interpretive themes and objectives for each site (specific vista points, trails, trailheads, parking areas, etc.) at which interpretation is planned.	50	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
Facilities	Provide for establishing facilities necessary for the administration of national forest lands. Construct/reconstruct FA&O facilities to support management and administration activities. Major projects occurring in the first decade (1986-1995) are the Bradshaw district office and the air tanker base.	50	No		This direction is obsolete as the project has been completed.
Facilities	Maintain potable water systems in a safe condition in accordance with Arizona State regulations.	50	No		This is required by the State of Arizona and as such duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Facilities	Maintain facilities to ensure health and safety of the public and employees.	50	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	
Facilities	Maintain administrative facilities in a safe condition to minimize disinvestment.	50	Yes	DC-Transportation and Facilities-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Facilities	Perform dam construction, inventory, inspection and O&M planning as per FSM 7500 and FSH 7509.11 (includes recreation, special use and resource improvement dams).	50	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) and Forest Service Manual (FSM).
Facilities	Provide utility systems (water and sewer) to support facilities.	50	No		This does not reflect the revised Forest Plan direction. The Prescott NF is reducing the number and extent of water and sewer systems to lower annual utility and maintenance costs.
Facilities	Priority will be given to high-risk areas concerning health and safety.	50	No		This specific direction was not carried over. The intent was unclear as there is no definition for "high-risk areas". Desired conditions in the revised plan describe a safe, clean, and sanitary environment for all facilities.
Facilities	Operate and maintain the intraforest electronic communication system so that it is compatible with the intraregional system. This system includes microwave, radio, telephone, etc.	50	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.
Wildland Fire	Firefighter and public safety shall be the first priority in all Fire Management activities.	51	Yes	Std-Wildland Fire-1	
Wildland Fire	All human-caused fires shall be suppressed using appropriate management response strategies.	51	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-1	
Wildland Fire	Wildland fire appropriate management responses shall minimize costs of suppression, resource impacts, and risks to life and property.	51	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Wildland Fire	Fire prevention messages should emphasize the difference between unwanted human caused fires, lightning-caused fires managed for resource benefits, and prescribed fires.	51	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Wildland Fire	Prevention and preparedness activities should be designed and implemented following a comprehensive analysis of fire occurrence, resistance to control, values at risk and other factors.	51	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Wildland Fire	The appropriate management response for each wildland fire will vary across the Forest and should include the full spectrum of options from aggressive initial attack to managing fires to accomplish resource objectives.	51-1	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-1	
Wildland Fire	For all management areas, lightning-caused fire should be managed to restore fire's natural role in maintaining a healthy, diverse and resilient ecosystem resistant to natural disturbances within the areas specified in Appendix L. Wildland fire use should follow direction specific to the Forest's Fire Management Plan that establishes parameters for risk, fire intensity, size, duration, and seasonality.	51-1	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-2 Guide-Wildland Fire-4	
Wildland Fire	Standards and guidelines for management of the Mexican spotted owl and the northern goshawk are found in Appendixes F and G.	51-1	Yes	DC-Veg-14 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-18 Guide-WL-1 Guide-WL-2 Guide-WL-5 Guide-WL-7	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Prescribed Fire / Fuels Treatment	Consider landscape-scale application of prescribed fire in all appropriate management areas.	51-1	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Prescribed Fire / Fuels Treatment	Consider mechanical fuels treatments where wildland fire use or prescribed fire may cause unacceptable damage to other resources or pose an unacceptable risk to private property.	51-1	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-5	
Prescribed Fire / Fuels Treatment	Hazard fuels reduction activities within wildland urban interface areas should have priority when there are differing resource objectives.	51-1	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-8	
Prescribed Fire / Fuels Treatment	Where opportunities exist, cooperative fuels treatment ventures with private, state, and other federal land management agencies should be implemented.	51-1	No		Cooperation with other agencies is a standard practice in fire management.
Law Enforcement	Provide an increased, visible presence of forest officers to facilitate law enforcement, deter violations, provide information to the public, and monitor resource conditions. Consideration should be given to weekend and off-hour patrols as identified by citizen complaints, employee monitoring, etc.	51-1	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Law Enforcement	Establish a volunteer forest watch program (similar to Neighborhood Crime Watch, Adopt-A-Trail, etc.) to improve monitoring of law enforcement violations and resource conditions. Volunteers should meet regularly and be provided with adequate training to understand the enforceable regulations regarding resource damage. Volunteer agreements should include wording that stipulates their agreement to testify in court and includes an appropriate reimbursement agreement for their expenses when testifying.	51-1	Yes	Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	
Law Enforcement	Enhance law enforcement effectiveness by providing training for forest employees to enforce laws and educate the public on forest use regulations. Ensure that all supervisor's office, district permanent and temporary field-going field employees and other public contact employees get an annual review of law enforcement regulations and responsibilities.	51-1	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to provide information. This is a project-level decision.
Law Enforcement	Give high priority to public education programs and actions to prevent resource damage and intense user conflicts. Law enforcement actions (patrols, violation issuance, etc.) will be given the highest priority where irreversible damage to resources or intense user conflicts may result.	52	Yes	DC-Rec-1 DC-Rec-2 Trails Guide-Rec-6 Guide-Interp-1	

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Law Enforcement	Develop a systematic means of responding to public complaints dealing with law enforcement matters. Utilize the standard Forest Service "Incident Report" and/or other effective means to ensure accurate recording of complaints and an effective Forest Service response. All violations and incidents will be tracked using the existing Law Enforcement Management Reporting System (LEMARS). Annual reports will be developed and maintained for public information and for reprioritizing future law enforcement efforts (patrol times, places, days, etc.).	52	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.
Law Enforcement	The forest supervisor's office will conduct a minimum of two law enforcement activity reviews per year. Adjustments to the law enforcement program will be determined as part of the review action plan developed from review findings.	52	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.
Law Enforcement	Develop and distribute public education materials with emphasis on topics concerning off-highway vehicle use/regulations, law enforcement procedures/violation reporting, and firewood permits/regulations.	52	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.
Law Enforcement	Prioritize law enforcement efforts with respect to times and places where violations are likely to occur, and focus efforts on priority situations.	52	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Law Enforcement	Cooperate and coordinate with other law enforcement agencies to provide protection for forest resources and users. Increase interagency communication to enhance joint and individual law enforcement responsibilities.	52	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.
Law Enforcement	Initiate search and rescue operations as a supportive service under the jurisdiction of the County Sheriff whenever the need arises.	52	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program direction for Law Enforcement. Due to structural changes in the Forest Service organization, this direction is no longer applicable. Law Enforcement is now separate from Forest Service land and resource management.
Insect and Disease Management	Detect and monitor insect and disease activities. Control if necessary to protect resources or uses. The method of control to be utilized will be determined through the NEPA process and cost analysis.	52	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 Obj-6 Guide-Veg-2	
Insect and Disease Management	Incorporate measures to control invasive species into project planning, implementation, and monitoring.	52	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 Obj-6 Guide-Veg-2	

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Insect and Disease Management	Use the Appendix B “Design Features, Best Management Practices, Required Protection Measures and Mitigation Measures” in the “Final Environmental Impact Statement for Integrated Treatment of Noxious or Invasive Weeds on the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests within Coconino, Gila, Mohave, and Yavapai Counties, Arizona” (2004) for specific mitigation measures. Deviance from Appendix B does not trigger the need for a forest plan amendment, however. Required Protection Measures from Section 7 consultation (Endangered Species Act) must be followed. If, as a result of environmental analysis, Best Management Practices or Mitigation Measures are modified, document the reason(s) in a NEPA decision.	52	Yes	Std-Veg-2 Guide-Veg-2	
MA1	Manage the following to Level C: High Chaparral – 103 acres; Management Intensity Accessible P/J – 4,039 acres; inaccessible P/J – 3,423 acres	53	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA1	Manage the following to Level B: Suitable Pine – 811 acres; Unsuitable P/J – 33,841 acres.	53	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA1	Manage the following to Level 4: Unsuitable Pine – 493 acres. Lands classified as full capacity rangelands total 43,710 acres, of which 10,951 acres are in unsatisfactory condition in 1986.	53	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA1	Unsatisfactory condition rangelands will be treated through implementation of approved allotment management plans. Treatment will include: 1. Structural or non structural range improvements necessary to implement or maintain prescribed intensity levels. 2. Adjusting stocking levels as necessary to maintain the management emphasis.	53	Yes	DC-Veg-3 Std-Range-1 to 3 Guide-Range-1 to 6 Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
MA1	Timber will be harvested only on slopes less than 40 percent.	54	Yes	Guide-Soils-3	
MA1	Designate new base-in-exchange land as depicted on the land ownership map.	54	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA2	Manage the following to Management Intensity Level B: Suitable Pine – 707 acres; Low Chaparral – 1,030 acres; Unsuitable P/J – 143,390 acres.	55	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA2	Manage the following to Level C: High Chaparral – 37,736 acres; Suitable P/J – 69,539 acres; Juniper – 112,341 acres.	56	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA2	Manage the following to Level 4: Unsuitable Pine – 229 acres	56	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA2	Manage the following to Level E: Desert Shrub/ Grasslands – 10,008 acres. Lands classified as full capacity rangelands total 380,406 acres, of which 117,857 acres are in unsatisfactory condition (in 1986).	56	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA2	Unsatisfactory condition rangelands will be treated through implementation of approved allotment management plans. Treatment will include: 1. Structural or non structural range improvements necessary to implement or maintain prescribed intensity levels. 2. Adjusting stocking levels as necessary to maintain the management emphasis.	56	Yes	DC-Veg-3 Std-Range-1 to 3 Guide-Range-1 to 6 Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
MA2	Nonstructural range improvement will be accomplished as a priority for limited nonstructural funds. A total of 7,547 acres are needed in decade one.	56	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA2	Timber will be harvested only on slopes less than 40 percent.	56	Yes	Guide-Soils-3	
MA2	New water diversions from the Verde River between Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, and Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, will only be allowed when authorized by Federal law.	56	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA2	Right-of-way and Special Use Permits for new utilities within the viewshed of the Verde River mainstem from Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 1 West to Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Gila and Salt River Base Meridian will be discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities will be restricted to existing right-of-ways. Where new right-of-ways are indicated, scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection process.	56	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA3	Grapevine Creek shall be designated and managed as a botanical area for its exemplary scientific values. Management standards and guidelines, as well as the area's boundary, are shown in Appendix J	58	Yes	DC-Special Areas-1 Std-CK MA-1	
MA3	Manage the following to Management Intensity Level B: Suitable Pine – 2,028 acres; Low Chaparral – 6,481 acres; Unsuitable P/J - 10,594 acres; and Riparian – 3,001 acres.	58	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA3	Manage the following to Level C: High Chaparral – 57,886 acres; Suitable P/J – 3,453 acres; and Juniper – 21,740 acres.	58	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA3	Manage the following to Level 4: Unsuitable Pine – 2,085 acres.	59	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA3	Manage the following to Level E: High Chaparral – 85,906 acres; Low Chaparral – 2,809 acres; Desert Shrub/Grassland – 588 acres. Lands classified as full capacity rangelands total 196,861 acres, of which 137,126 acres are in unsatisfactory condition (in 1986).	59	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA3	Unsatisfactory condition rangelands will be treated through implementation of approved allotment management plans. Treatment will include: 1. Structural or non structural range improvements necessary to implement or maintain prescribed intensity levels. 2. Adjusting stocking levels as necessary to maintain the management emphasis.	59	Yes	DC-Veg-3 Std-Range-1 to 3 Guide-Range-1 to 6 Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
MA3	Nonstructural range improvement will be accomplished as a priority for limited nonstructural funds. A total of 2,222 acres are needed in decade one.	59	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA3	Timber will be harvested only on slopes less than 40 percent.	59	Yes	Guide-Soils-3	
MA3	Continue operation and maintenance of the Battle Flat pilot application project.	59	No		This direction is obsolete as the project has been completed.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA4	The existing recreation residence permits within the designated Horsethief Basin, Miller Creek, Hickey Mountain and Mingus Mountain Recreation Residence Areas will continue in effect through the existing permit term unless revoked, terminated or relinquished. An Analysis of Recreation Resident Use Continuance will be carried out 10 years prior to permit termination to evaluate if continuance may be justifiable.	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
MA4	Manage the following to Management Intensity Level B: Suitable Pine – 3,2059 acres; Low Chaparral – 833 acres; Suitable P/J – 10,880 acres.	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA4	Manage the following to Level C: High Chaparral – 57,886 acres; Suitable P/J – 3,453 acres; and Juniper – 21,740 acres.	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA4	Manage the following to Level 4: Unsuitable Pine – 2,085 acres.	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA4	<p>Manage the following to Level E: High Chaparral – 85,906 acres; Low Chaparral – 2,809 acres; Desert Shrub / Grasslands – 588 acres.</p> <p>Lands classified as full capacity rangelands total 196,861 acres, of which 137,126 acres are in unsatisfactory condition (in 1986).</p>	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA4	<p>Unsatisfactory condition rangelands will be treated through implementation of approved allotment management plans. Treatment will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structural or non structural range improvements necessary to implement or maintain prescribed intensity levels. 2. Adjusting stocking levels as necessary to maintain the management emphasis. 	62	Yes	DC-Veg-3 Std-Range-1 to 3 Guide-Range-1 to 6 Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
MA4	Nonstructural range improvement will be accomplished as a priority for limited nonstructural funds. A total of 2,222 acres are needed in 1986-1995.	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA4	For the first 5 decades (1986-2035), 400 acres of artificial reforestation (planting) will be done each decade in order to achieve the desired stocking level in areas which are currently understocked. This will be in addition to any planting that is done in areas following regeneration harvests.	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA4	Ensure that fences around the Prescott Municipal Watershed are maintained.	62	Yes	DC-Watershed-5	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA4	Use of the Wildflower Electronic Site will be limited to national defense and/or public safety agencies.	62	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction.
MA5	Cooperate with the Arizona State Natural Area Advisory Council in the study of Little Ash Creek as a State Natural Area.	64	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
MA5	Close 121 acres of Little Ash Creek to OHV use to facilitate study of this site as part of the State Natural Area System.	64	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.
MA5	Manage the following to Management Intensity Level B: High Chaparral – 89 acres; Unsuitable P/J – 8,660 acres; and Riparian 5,203 acres	64	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA5	Manage the following to Level C: High Chaparral – 13,508 acres; Suitable P/J – 2,817 acres; Juniper – 79,901 acres	64	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA5	Manage the following to Level 4: Unsuitable – 94 acres	64	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA5	<p>Manage the following to Level E: Low Chaparral – 17,497 acres; and Desert Shrub/Grassland – 66,027 acres.</p> <p>Riparian lands will be managed at a level commensurate with the remainder of the contributing watershed.</p> <p>Lands classified as full capacity rangelands total 193,796 acres, of which 97,396 acres are in unsatisfactory condition (in 1986).</p>	64	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA5	<p>Unsatisfactory condition rangelands will be treated through implementation of approved allotment management plans. Treatment will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structural or non structural range improvements necessary to implement or maintain prescribed intensity levels. 2. Adjusting stocking levels as necessary to maintain the management emphasis. 	65	Yes	DC-Veg-3 Std-Range-1 to 3 Guide-Range-1 to 6 Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
MA5	Nonstructural range improvement will be accomplished as a priority for limited nonstructural funds. 1,653 acres are needed in decade one.	65	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA6	The Gap Creek drainage, because of its exemplary riparian character, will be evaluated for potential as a Research Natural Area. This evaluation will work within the constraints of wilderness regulations and legal requirements imposed by the presence of Gila trout habitat.	68	No		This direction is obsolete as it is no longer applicable.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA6	Where the wilderness resource or its values are jeopardized in spite of management strategies, restrict or exclude recreation use.	68	Yes	Std-Wild-1	
MA6	Prepare and publish brochures for each wilderness in the first decade to be reviewed annually and updated as needed.	68	No		This direction is outdated and was not carried over.
MA6	Manage all wildernesses at the standard service level.	68	No		This specific direction was not carried over. The intent was unclear as there is no definition for "standard service level". The current focus for dispersed recreation is described in DC-Wild-1.
MA6	Visitor use impacts will be monitored and managed. Identify impact parameters, measurement procedures, evaluation and rating criteria by the end of the first decade (1986-1995) for each wilderness.	68	Yes	Chapter 6	
MA6	The forest will continue to provide interpretation regarding wilderness ethics, values and opportunities to the public in the form of written, verbal and personal contact.	68	Yes	Guide-Interp-1	
MA6	Provide no-trace, low impact camping, trip planning and visitor use information on the written portion of wilderness maps.	68	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to provide information. This is a project-level decision.
MA6	Where agency or applicant objectives can be met outside of designated wilderness, permits will not be issued in wilderness.	68	Yes	Guide-Wild-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA6	All, except Granite Mountain (See Appendix E) - Maximum group size will be limited to 25 persons.	68	Yes	Guide-Wild-2 Guide-Wild-3	
MA6	Maintain wilderness boundaries posting in those areas where intrusion is likely to occur.	68	Yes	Obj-15 Guide-Wild-4	
MA6	Areas degraded as a result of man's activities that cannot be rehabilitated naturally will be seeded with native plant species to establish satisfactory ground cover to protect wilderness resource values.	68	Yes	Guide-Wild-5	
MA6	Through printed material, advise wilderness users that all water must be treated if intended for human consumption, and that water sources are not reliable.	68	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to provide information. This is a project-level decision.
MA6	Require the use of certified weed-free feeds for livestock in wilderness.	69	No		This direction was not carried over as it is currently under review at the regional level.
MA6	Habitat components and capabilities will be updated every 10 years.	69	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA6	No potable water systems will be developed.	69	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA6	Update the transportation system inventory and implementation plans at 5-year intervals.	69	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature and does not direct the development of other plans, inventories, or feasibility studies.
MA6	Provide facilities at trailheads consistent with the level of use associated with the wilderness to which that trailhead provides access, and that protects resources at the trailhead site.	69	Yes	Guide-Wild-6	
MA6	The trail system will only be expanded into areas currently without trails after determination that it is necessary to meet wilderness management needs.	69	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA6	Helispots approved as part of the transportation plan will be maintained to provide for safe emergency helicopter use.	69	Yes	Guide-Wild-8	
MA6	Wildland fires and prescribed fires will be implemented to meet specific wilderness objectives.	69	Yes	Std-Wild-3	
MA6	Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics should be used to suppress wildland fires within Wilderness.	69	Yes	Guide-Wild-7	
MA6	The use of helicopters, power saws, small motorized pumps and the aerial delivery of personnel, retardants and supplies should be authorized by the incident commander(s) or as otherwise stipulated within an Wildland Fire Situation Analysis or "Delegation of Authority" signed by the line officer with jurisdiction.	69	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing Forest Service policy.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
MA6	New water diversions from the Verde River between Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, and Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, will only be allowed when authorized by Federal law	69	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA6	Right-of-way and special use permits for new utilities within the viewshed of the Verde River mainstem from Section 5, Township 17 North, Range 1 West to Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Gila and Salt River Base Meridian will be discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities will be restricted to existing right-of-ways. Where new right-of-ways are indicated, scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection process.	69	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
MA7	No capacity will be assigned to this area.	70	Yes	Forest Plan Chapter 7: Range Suitability	
MA9	The Verde Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) provides detailed direction for the entire Verde Wild and Scenic River. Standards and Guidelines from the CRMP applicable to the Scenic portion of the Verde River are hereby incorporated into this Forest Plan.	72-1	Yes	Std-W&S-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	Human impacts are minimal and generally not apparent to most visitors. Human impacts on vegetation would typically recover on an annual basis.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	The visitor has an outstanding opportunity for isolation and solitude.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	The visitor has an outstanding opportunity to travel across country utilizing a maximum degree of outdoor skills in an environment that offers a very high potential for challenge, self-reliance and risk.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	Interparty contacts are very few or none.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	Minimal direct onsite management of visitors.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	Formal regulations, orders and/or permits are considered only when less restrictive regulations or programs have consistently failed to achieve desired goals and objectives.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	Area has no system trails.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class I	No facilities of any kind are provided or permitted.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	Human impacts are low, apparent to only a few visitors. Most human impacts on vegetation would typically recover on an annual basis.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	The visitor has a high opportunity for exploring and experiencing isolation.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	The visitor has a good opportunity for experiencing independence through the application of primitive recreation skills in an environment that offers a high potential for challenge and risk.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	Interparty contacts are few.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	Direct onsite management of visitors will involve minimum visitor contact.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	Formal rules and regulations may be necessary to achieve desired goals and objectives.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	Signs provide only the minimum information necessary to protect the wilderness resource.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	Areas are mostly trailless; system trails may be constructed for resource protection and minimal user safety; trails are maintained and managed to accommodate light and infrequent travel.	133	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class II	Facilities are provided only in a few extreme cases for resource protection; natural materials dominate; nonnative materials may be used in a few cases.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	Human impacts are moderate and apparent to a moderate number of visitors.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	Human impacts to vegetation in some areas often persist from year to year.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	The visitor has a moderate opportunity for experiencing independence through the application of primitive recreation skills in an environment that normally offers a moderate opportunity for challenge and risk.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	Contact with other visitors is moderately frequent.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	Onsite management of visitors involves routine visitor contact.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	Formal rules and regulations may be necessary to achieve desired goals and objectives.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	A minimum number of signs are used to protect the wilderness resource and for administration.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	System trails are frequent and may be constructed and maintained to accommodate moderate use for the majority of the use season.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class III	A moderate number of facilities may be provided for the protection of the wilderness resource and the safety of the user. Natural materials dominate; nonnative materials may be used but are not evident to the average user.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	Human impacts are generally high in areas along major entry points; impacts are readily apparent to most visitors.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	Human impacts to vegetation persist from year to year and there may be moderate loss of vegetation and soil at some sites.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	The visitor has the opportunity for a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, often with low to moderate challenge and risk.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	Contact with other users is relatively high much of the time.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	There is frequent opportunity for visitor contact with management personnel.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	Formal rules and regulations may be necessary to achieve desired goals and objectives.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	Signs are placed to aid in distributing and dispersing use.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	System trails may be constructed; trails are maintained and managed to accommodate high traffic for the majority of the use season.	134	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness Opportunity Class IV	Facilities and improvements may be provided for resource protection and user safety. Facilities emphasize the use of natural materials; nonnative materials are acceptable but harmonize with the natural environment.	135	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This direction is unnecessarily prescriptive. Wilderness Opportunity Class descriptions are better addressed at the project-level in a Granite Mountain Wilderness Management Plan.
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness	Require all dogs to be on a leash.	135	Yes	Guide-WVS MA-1	
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness	Prohibit camping within 200 feet either side of Trail 261.	135	Yes	Guide-WVS MA-1	
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness	Prohibit campfires.	135	Yes	Guide-WVS MA-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness	Prohibit new fixed anchor routes. Existing fixed anchors may be maintained. Prohibit the use of power drills and other electro-mechanical or pneumatic devices for maintaining fixed anchors.	135	Yes	Std-WVS MA-1	
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness	The maximum size of a hiking party that may travel together or camp at one location is 15 persons.	135	Yes	Guide-Wild-2	
Appendix E. Wilderness — Granite Mountain Wilderness	The maximum size of an equestrian party that may travel together or camp at one location is 10 animals (including riding and pack animals).	135	Yes	Guide-Wild-3	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	<p>Provide three levels of habitat management: protected, restricted and other forest and woodland types to achieve a diversity of habitat conditions across the landscape.</p> <p>Protected areas include delineated protected activity centers; mixed conifer and pine/oak forests with slopes greater than 40 percent where timber harvest has not occurred in the last 20 years; and reserved lands, which include wilderness, research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and congressionally recognized wilderness study areas.</p> <p>Restricted areas include all mixed-conifer, pine/oak and riparian forests outside of protected areas.</p> <p>Other forest and woodland types include all ponderosa pine, spruce/fir, woodland and aspen forests outside protected and restricted areas.</p>	137	Yes	DC-Wildlife-2 Guide-WL-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	Survey all potential spotted owl areas including protected, restricted and other forest and woodland types within an analysis area plus the area one-half mile beyond the perimeter of the proposed treatment area.	137	Yes	Guide-WL-1	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	Establish a protected activity center at all Mexican spotted owl sites located during surveys and all management territories established since 1989.	137	Yes	Guide-WL-1	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	Allow no timber harvest except for firewood and fire risk abatement in established protected activity centers. For protected activity centers destroyed by fire, windstorm or other natural disaster, salvage timber harvest or declassification may be allowed after evaluation on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	137	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl (MSO). A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	Allow no timber harvest except for fire risk abatement in mixed conifer and pine/oak forests on slopes greater than 40 percent where timber harvest has not occurred in the last 20 years.	137	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	Limit human activity in protected activity centers during the breeding season.	137	Yes	Guide-WL-1	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	In protected and restricted areas, when activities conducted in conformance with these standards and guidelines may adversely affect other threatened, endangered or sensitive species or may conflict with other established recovery plans or conservation agreements, consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to resolve the conflict.	137	No		This is required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and as such duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Standards	Monitor changes in owl populations and habitat needed for delisting.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines	Conduct surveys following Region 3 survey protocol.	138	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines	Breeding season is March 1 to August 31.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	Delineate an area of not less than 600 acres around the activity center using boundaries of known habitat polygons and/or topographic features. Written justification for boundary delineation should be provided.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 261
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	The protected activity center boundary should enclose the best possible owl habitat configured in as compact a unit as possible, with the nest or activity center located near the center.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 260

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	The activity center is defined as the nest site. In the absence of a known nest, the activity center should be defined as a roost grove commonly used during breeding. In the absence of a known nest or roost, the activity center should be defined as the best nest/roost habitat.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 260
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	Protected activity center boundaries should not overlap.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 261
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	Submit protected activity center maps and descriptions to the recovery unit working group for comment as soon as possible after completion of surveys.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 259
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	Road or trail building in protected activity centers should be avoided but may be permitted on a case-by-case basis for pressing management reasons.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 261
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	Generally allow continuation of the level of recreation activities that was occurring prior to listing.	138	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan pg 294

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	Require bird guides to apply for and obtain a special use permit. A condition of the permit shall be that they obtain a subpermit under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service master endangered species permit. The permit should stipulate the sites, dates, number of visits and maximum group size permissible.	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 293
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	<p>Harvest firewood when it can be done in such a way that effects on the owl are minimized. Manage within the following limitations to minimize effects on the owl:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain key forest species such as oak. • Retain key habitat components such as snags and large downed logs. • Harvest conifers less than 9 inches in diameter only within those protected activity centers treated to abate fire risk as described below. 	138	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk:	138	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 262
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select for treatment 10 percent of the protected activity centers where nest sites are known in each recovery unit having high fire risk conditions. Also select another 10 percent of the protected activity centers where nest sites are known as a paired sample to serve as control areas. 	139	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 262

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	• Designate a 100-acre “no treatment” area around the known nest site of each selected protected activity center. Habitat in the “no treatment” area should be as similar as possible in structure and composition as that found in the activity center.	139	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 260 - 261
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	• Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches in diameter, mechanical fuel treatment and prescribed fire to abate fire risk in the remainder of the selected protected activity center outside the 100-acre “no treatment” area.	139	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	• Retain woody debris larger than 12 inches in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches in diameter at the root collar.	139	Yes	DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17	See MSO recovery plan pg 276 - 277
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	• Select and treat additional protected activity centers in 10 percent increments if monitoring of the initial sample shows there were no negative impacts or there were negative impacts that can be mitigated by modifying treatment methods.	139	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan pg 262
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	• Use light prescribed burns in nonselected protected activity centers on a case-by-case basis. Burning should avoid a 100-acre “no treatment” area around the activity center. Large woody debris, snags and clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation should be retained and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches diameter at the root collar.	139	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan pg 261, 263

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Protected Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre- and post-treatment monitoring should be conducted in all protected activity centers treated for fire risk abatement (see monitoring guidelines). 	139	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan pg 262
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Steep Slopes	No seasonal restrictions apply	139	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Steep Slopes	<p>Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches in diameter, mechanical fuel removal and prescribed fire. • Retain woody debris larger than 12 inches in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leaved woody vegetation and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches in diameter at the root collar. • Pre- and post-treatment monitoring should occur within all steep slopes treated for fire risk abatement (see monitoring guidelines). 	139	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Guidelines - Reserved Lands	Allow prescribed fire where appropriate.	139	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Manage to ensure a sustained level of owl nest/roost habitat well distributed across the landscape. Create replacement owl nest/roost habitat where appropriate while providing a diversity of stand conditions across the landscape to ensure habitat for a diversity of prey species.	140	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 266
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	The following table displays the minimum percentage of restricted area that should be managed to have nest/roost characteristics. The minimum mixed conifer restricted area includes 10 percent at 170 basal area and an additional amount of area at 150 basal area. The additional area of 150 basal area is +10 percent in BR-E and +15 percent in all other recovery units. The variables are for stand averages and are minimum threshold values and must be met simultaneously. In project design, no stands simultaneously meeting or exceeding the minimum threshold values should be reduced below the threshold values unless a districtwide or larger landscape analysis of restricted areas shows that there is a surplus of restricted area acres simultaneously meeting the threshold values. Management should be designed to create minimum threshold conditions on project areas where there is a deficit of stands simultaneously meeting minimum threshold conditions unless the districtwide or larger landscape analysis shows there is a surplus.	140	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan pg 278
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Attempt to mimic natural disturbance patterns by incorporating natural variation, such as irregular tree spacing and various patch sizes, into management prescriptions.	140	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 276 - 277

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Maintain all species of native trees in the landscape including early seral species.	140	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 276 - 277
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Allow natural canopy gap processes to occur, thus producing horizontal variation in stand structure.	140	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 276 - 277
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Emphasize uneven-aged management systems. However, both even-aged and uneven-aged systems may be used where appropriate to provide variation in existing stand structure and species diversity. Existing stand conditions will determine which system is appropriate.	140	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Extend rotation ages for even-aged stands to greater than 200 years. Silvicultural prescriptions should explicitly state when vegetative manipulation will cease until rotation age is reached.	140	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Save all trees greater than 24 inches DBH	141	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	In pine/oak forests, retain existing large oaks and promote growth of additional large oaks. Encourage prescribed and prescribed natural fire to reduce hazardous fuel accumulation. Thinning from below may be desirable or necessary before burning to reduce ladder fuels and the risk of crown fire.	141	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Mixed Conifer and Pine/Oak Forests	Retain substantive amounts of key habitat components: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Snags 18 inches in diameter and larger• Down logs over 12 inches midpoint diameter• Hardwoods for retention, recruitment and replacement of large hardwoods	141	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan pg 276 -277
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Areas - Riparian Areas	Emphasize maintenance and restoration of healthy riparian ecosystems through conformance with Forest Plan riparian standards and guidelines. Management strategies should move degraded riparian vegetation toward good condition as soon as possible. Damage to riparian vegetation, streambanks and channels should be prevented.	141	Yes	DC-Watershed-2 DC-Wildlife-2 Guide-WS-3 Guide-WS-10	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Domestic Livestock Grazing	Implement Forest Plan forage utilization standards and guidelines to maintain owl prey availability, maintain potential for beneficial fire while inhibiting potential destructive fire, maintain and restore riparian ecosystems, and promote development of owl habitat. Strive to attain good to excellent range conditions.	141	Yes	Guide-WL-1 Guide-Range-6	See MSO recovery plan pg 261, 271, 289 - 291

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Old Growth	Except where otherwise noted, implement forest plan old growth standards and guidelines to maintain and promote development of owl habitat.	141	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-2 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17 DC-Wildlife-2 Guide-Veg-7	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Other Forest and Woodland Types	Apply ecosystem approaches to manage for landscape diversity mimicking natural disturbance patterns, incorporating natural variation in stand conditions and retaining special features such as snags and large trees, utilizing appropriate fires and retention of existing old growth in accordance with Forest Plan old growth standards and guidelines.	141	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17 DC-Wildlife-2 Guide-FP-1	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Basin and Range – West	Emphasize restoration of lowland riparian habitats.	141	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 272 - 273
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Basin and Range – West	Management activities necessary to implement the Mt. Graham red squirrel recovery plan which may conflict with standards and guidelines for Mexican spotted owl will take precedence and will be exempt from the conflicting Mexican spotted owl standards and guidelines.	142	No		This direction was not carried over because the Mt. Graham red squirrel is not present on the Prescott NF.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Basin and Range – East	Emphasize restoration of lowland riparian habitats.	142	No		This direction was not carried over because the Prescott NF is not located in the Basin and Range East Ecological Management Unit of the MSO recovery plan.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Basin and Range – East	Management activities necessary to implement the Sacramento Mountain thistle recovery plan which may conflict with standards and guidelines for Mexican spotted owl will take precedence and will be exempt from the conflicting Mexican spotted owl standards and guidelines.	142	No		This direction was not carried over because the Prescott NF is not located in the Basin and Range East Ecological Management Unit of the MSO recovery plan.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Monitoring and evaluation should be collaboratively planned and coordinated with involvement from each national forest, USFWS Ecological Services Field Office, USFWS Regional Office, USDA Forest Service Regional Office, Rocky Mountain Research Station, recovery team and recovery unit working groups.	142	Yes	Forest Plan Chapter 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Population monitoring should be a collaborative effort with participation of all appropriate resource agencies.	142	Yes	Forest Plan Chapter 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Habitat monitoring of gross habitat changes should be a collaborative effort of all appropriate resource agencies.	142	Yes	Forest Plan Chapter 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Forest Plan Appendix B: Management Approaches	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Habitat monitoring of treatment effects (pre- and post-treatment) should be done by the agency conducting the treatment.	142	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 282 - 283
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Prepare an annual monitoring and evaluation report covering all levels of monitoring done in the previous year. The annual report should be forwarded to the Regional Forester with copies provided to the recovery unit working groups, USFWS Ecological Services field offices and the USFWS Regional Office.	142	No		This duplicates a requirement that can be found in the US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion of the revised plan. This does not need to be repeated in the actual forest plan.
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Track gross changes in acres of owl habitat resulting from natural and humancaused disturbances. Acreage changes in vegetation composition, structure and density should be tracked, evaluated and reported. Remote sensing techniques should provide an adequate level of accuracy.	142	Yes	Forest Plan Chapter 6: Monitoring and Evaluation	
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	In protected and restricted areas where silvicultural or fire abatement treatments are planned, monitor treated stands pre- and post-treatment to determine changes and trajectories in fuel levels; snag basal areas; live tree basal areas; volume of down logs over 12 inches in diameter; and basal area of hardwood trees over 10 inches in diameter at the root crown.	142	Yes	Guide-WL-1	See MSO recovery plan pg 282 - 283

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Assist the recovery team and recovery unit working groups to establish sampling units consisting of 19 to 39 square mile quadrants randomly allocated to habitat strata. Quadrants should be defined based on ecological boundaries such as ridge lines and watersheds. Quadrant boundaries should not traverse owl territories. Twenty percent of the quadrants will be replaced each year at random.	143	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan appendix E
Appendix F. Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring Guidelines	Using the sample quadrants, monitor the number of territorial individuals and pairs per quadrant; reproduction; apparent survival; recruitment; and age structure. Track population density both per quadrant and habitat stratum.	143	No		This direction is obsolete as it is based on the 1995 recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl. A new recovery plan was put into place in 2012 that supersedes previous direction and is incorporated by reference through Guide-WL-1. See MSO recovery plan appendix E
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Survey the management analysis area prior to habitat-modifying activities including one-half mile beyond the boundary.	145	Yes	Guide-WL-2	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Establish and delineate on a map a post-fledgling family area that includes six nesting areas per pair of nesting goshawks for known nest sites, old nest sites, areas where historical data indicates goshawks have nested there in the past, and where goshawks have been repeatedly sighted over a 2-year or greater time period but no nest sites have been located.	145	Yes	Guide-WL-7	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Manage for uneven-age stand conditions for live trees and retain live reserve trees, snags, downed logs and woody debris levels throughout woodland, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer and spruce fir forest cover types. Manage for old age trees such that as much old forest structure as possible is sustained over time across the landscape.	145	Yes	DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-14 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-18	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Sustain a mosaic of vegetation densities (overstory and understory), age classes, and species composition across the landscape.	145	Yes	DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-14 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-18	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Provide foods and cover for goshawk prey.	145	Yes	DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1 DC-Veg-1 DC-Wildlife-1 Guide-WL-2 Guide-WL-5 Guide-WL-7	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Limit human activity in nesting areas during the breeding season.	145	Yes	Guide-WL-7 Guide-WL-5	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Manage the ground surface layer to maintain satisfactory soil conditions (i.e., to minimize soil compaction) and to maintain hydrologic and nutrient cycles.	145	Yes	DC-Watershed-1 DC-Watershed-3	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	When activities conducted in conformance with these standards and guidelines may adversely affect other threatened, endangered or sensitive species or may conflict with other established recovery plans or conservation agreements, consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to resolve the conflict.	145	No		This is required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and as such duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Standards	Within the ranges of the Kaibab pincushion cactus, <i>Pediocactus paradinei</i> , and the Arizona leatherflower, <i>Clematis hirsutissima arizonica</i> , management activities needed for the conservation of these two species that may conflict with northern goshawk standards and guidelines will be exempt from the conflicting northern goshawk standards and guidelines until conservation strategies or recovery plans (if listed) are developed for the two species.	146	No		This direction was not carried over because these species do not occur on the Prescott NF.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Emphasize maintenance and restoration of healthy riparian ecosystems through conformance with Forest Plan riparian standards and guidelines. Management strategies should restore degraded riparian areas to good condition as soon as possible. Damage to riparian vegetation, streambanks and channels should be prevented.	146	Yes	DC-Ecosystem Resilience-1 DC-Watershed-1 DC-Watershed-2 DC-Watershed-6 DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-23 DC-Aquatic-1 DC-Aquatic-3 Obj-22 Obj-23 Obj-31 Std-WS-1 Std-WS-3 Guide-WS-3 Guide-WS-5 Guide-WS-6 Guide-WS-7	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Refer to USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-217 entitled “Management Recommendations for the Northern Goshawk in the Southwestern United States” for scientific information on goshawk ecology and management that provides the basis for the management guidelines. Supplemental information on goshawk ecology and management may be found in “The Northern Goshawk: Ecology and Management” published by the Cooper Ornithological Society as Studies in Avian Biology No. 16. In woodland forest cover types, use empirical data to determine desired habitat conditions.	146	Yes	DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-8 DC-Veg-9 DC-Veg-10 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-14 DC-Veg-15 DC-Veg-16 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-18 DC-Veg-19 DC-Veg-20 Guide-WL-7	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Use the R3 survey protocol to get complete coverage of the management analysis area (Kennedy and Stahlecker 1993, as modified by Joy, Reynolds and Leslie 1994). Management analysis areas should be entire ecosystem management areas if possible.	146	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Complete at least 1 year of survey, but 2 years of survey should be done to verify questionable sightings, unconfirmed nest sites, etc. If nesting goshawks are found during the first year of inventory, a second year of inventory is not needed in that territory.	146	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	For areas where complete inventories cannot be done, use aerial photographs to locate vegetative structural stages (VSS) 4-6 within the project area and inventory just those sites for goshawk nest areas using R3 inventory protocol. All uninventoried areas (VSS 1-3) will be managed to postfledgling family area (PFA) specifications while in that stage. If, while using this inventory option, evidence suggests goshawks are present (such as finding plucking perches or molted goshawk feathers), conduct a complete inventory as outlined above.	146	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	If forests have goshawks commonly nesting in stands classified as VSS 1-3, use the complete inventory methods for those areas. There may be situations where an area is classified as a VSS 3, based on the predominant VSS class, but in actuality a combination of VSS 4 and 5 predominate the area. For those situations, use the complete inventory methods.	146	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Post-fledgling family areas (PFA) will be approximately 600 acres in size. Post-fledgling family areas will include the nest sites and consist of the habitat most likely to be used by the fledglings during their early development.	147	Yes	Guide-WL-7	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Establish a minimum of three nest areas and three replacement nest areas per post-fledgling family area. The nest areas and replacement nest areas should be approximately 30 acres in size. A minimum total of 180 acres of nest areas should be identified within each post-fledgling family area.	147	Yes	Guide-WL-7	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Nest site selection will be based first on using active nest sites followed by the most recently used historical nest areas. When possible, all historical nest areas should be maintained.	147	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Manage for nest replacement sites to attain sufficient quality and size to replace the three suitable nest sites.	147	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Guidelines	Distribution of habitat structures (tree size and age classes, tree groups of different densities, snags, dead and down woody material, etc.) should be evaluated at the ecosystem management area level, at the mid-scale such as drainage, and at the small scale of site. Where VSS 6 is deficit within the ecosystem management area, all VSS 6 will be maintained regardless of location. However, over time the intent is to sustain a relatively even distribution (again based on site quality) of VSS 6 across the ecosystem management area.	147	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	The distribution of vegetation structural stages for ponderosa pine, mixed conifer and spruce/fir forests is 10 percent grass/forb/shrub (VSS 1), 10 percent seedling sapling (VSS 2), 20 percent young forest (VSS 3), 20 percent mid-aged forest (VSS 4), 20 percent mature forest (VSS 5), 20 percent old forest (VSS 6). NOTE: The specified percentages are a guide and actual percentages are expected to vary + or - up to 3 percent.	147	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	The distribution of VSS, tree density and tree age are a product of site quality in the ecosystem management area. Use site quality to guide in the distribution of VSS, tree density and tree ages. Use site quality to identify and manage dispersal PFA and nest habitat at 2 to 2.5 mile spacing across the landscape.	147	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Snags are 18" or larger DBH and 30 feet or larger in height, downed logs are 12" in diameter and at least 8 feet long, woody debris is 3" or larger on the forest floor and canopy cover is measured with vertical crown projection on average across the landscape.	147	Yes	DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	The order of preferred treatment for woody debris is: (1) prescribed burning; (2) topping and scattering; (3) hand piling or machine grapple piling; and (4) dozer piling.	147	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Canopy cover guidelines apply only to mid-aged to old forest structural stages (VSS 4, VSS 5 and VSS 6) and not to grass/forb/shrub to young forest structural stages (VSS 1, VSS 2 and VSS 3).	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Canopy cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average one-third 60 percent and two-thirds 40 percent, mature forest (VSS 5) should average 60+ percent, and old forest (VSS 6) should average 60+ percent.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Maximum opening size is 1 acre with a maximum width of 125 feet.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Provide two groups of reserve trees per acre with six trees per group when opening size exceeds 0.5.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Leave at least 3 snags, 5 downed logs and 10-15 tons of woody debris per acre.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Canopy cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average one-third 60+ percent and two-thirds 40+ percent, mature forest (VSS 5) should average 50+ percent, and old forest (VSS 6) should average 60+ percent.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Maximum opening size is up to 4 acres with a maximum width of up to 200 feet.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Retain one group of reserve trees per acre of 3 to 5 trees per group for openings greater than 1 acre in size.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Leave at least 3 snags, 5 downed logs, and 10-15 tons of woody debris per acre.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Canopy cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average 40+ percent, mature forest (VSS 5) should average 40+ percent, and old forest (VSS 6) should average 40+ percent.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Opening size is up to 4 acres with a maximum width of up to 200 feet.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	One group of reserve trees, 3 to 5 trees per group, will be left if the opening is greater than an acre in size.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Leave at least 2 snags per acre, 3 downed logs per acre, and 5-7 tons of woody debris per acre.	148	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Manage for uneven-age conditions to sustain a mosaic of vegetation densities (overstory and understory), age classes, and species composition well distributed across the landscape.	148	Yes	DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Provide for reserve trees, snags and down woody debris.	148	Yes	DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Provide for a healthy sustainable forest environment for the post-fledgling family needs of goshawks. The principle difference between “within the post-fledgling family area” and “outside the post-fledgling family area” is the higher canopy cover within the post-fledgling family area and smaller opening size within the post-fledgling family area. Vegetative structural stage distribution and structural conditions are the same within and outside the post-fledgling family area.	149	Yes	DC-Veg-14 DC-Veg-18	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Canopy cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average 60+ percent and for mature (VSS 5) and old forest (VSS 6) should average 70+ percent.	149	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Canopy cover for mid-aged (VSS 4) to old forest (VSS 6) should average 60+ percent.	149	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Canopy cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average one-third 60+ percent and two-thirds 50+ percent. Mature (VSS5) and old forest (VSS 6) should average 50+ percent.	149	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Maintain existing canopy cover levels.	149	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Provide unique nesting habitat conditions for goshawks. Important features include trees of mature to old age with high canopy cover.	149	Yes	Guide-WL-2 Guide-WL-5 Guide-WL-7	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	The structure of the vegetation within nest areas is associated with the forest type, tree age, size and density and the developmental history of the stand. Table 5 of RM-217 presents attributes required for goshawks on locations with “low” and “high” site productivity.	149	Yes	Guide-WL-2	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Preferred treatments to maintain the desired structure are to thin from below with nonuniform spacing and use of hand tools and fire to reduce fuel loads. Lopping and scattering of thinning debris is preferred if prescribed fire cannot be used. Piling of debris should be limited. When necessary, hand piling should be used to minimize compaction within piles and to minimize displacement and destruction of the forest floor and the herbaceous layer. Do not grapple or dozer pile debris. Manage road densities at the lowest level possible to minimize disturbance in the nest area. Use small, permanent skid trails in lieu of roads for timber harvesting.	149	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	The nesting area contains only mature to old forest (VSS 5 and 6) having a canopy cover (measured vertically) between 50-70 percent with mid-aged VSS 6 trees 200-300 years old. Nonuniform spacing of trees and clumpiness is desirable.	150	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Maintain existing canopy cover levels.	150	No		This does not reflect current direction to attain desired conditions. This directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach as described in DC-Veg 13 to 20. These desired conditions were put into place based on updated science, taking into account goshawk needs in southwestern forests.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Limit human activities in or near nest sites and post-fledgling family areas during the breeding season so that goshawk reproductive success is not affected by human activities.	150	Yes	Guide-WL-7	

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	The breeding season extends from March 1 through September 30.	150	Yes	Guide-WL-7	
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Low-intensity ground fires are allowed at any time in all forested cover types, but high-intensity crown fires are not acceptable in the post-fledgling family area or nest areas. Avoid burning the entire home range of a goshawk pair in a single year. For fires planned in the occupied nest area, a fire management plan should be prepared. The fire management plan should minimize the risk of goshawk abandonment while low intensity ground fire burns in the nesting area. Prescribed fire within nesting areas should be planned to move with prevailing winds away from the nest tree to minimize smoke and risk of crown fire developing and driving the adults off or consuming the nest tree.	150	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Manage road densities at the lowest level possible. Where timber harvesting has been prescribed to achieve desired forest condition, use small skid trails in lieu of roads.	150	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Piling of debris should be limited. When necessary, hand or grapple piling should be used to minimize soil compaction within piles and to minimize forest floor and herbaceous layer displacement and destruction.	150	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix G. Northern Goshawk Vegetation Management	Limit dozer use for piling or scattering of logging debris so that the forest floor and herbaceous layer is not displaced or destroyed.	150	Yes	Guide-Soils-1 Guide-Soils-2 Guide-Soils-3 Guide-Soils-4 Guide-Soils-5	
Appendix H. Old Growth Standards	Until the Forest Plan is revised, allocate no less than 20 percent of each forested ecosystem management area to old growth as depicted in the following table.	151	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 DC-Veg-6 DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-9 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-20 Guide-Veg-7	As written, the previous direction does not attain desired conditions. It directs management for an even-aged approach, not an uneven-aged approach.
Appendix H. Old Growth Standards	Allocations will consist of landscape percentages meeting old growth conditions and not specific acres.	151	No		This does not support attaining desired conditions described in the revised plan. Within the desired condition descriptions, "Old growth" refers to specific habitat components that occur in forests and woodlands—old trees, dead trees (snags), downed wood (coarse woody debris), and structure diversity.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix H. Old Growth Standards	In the long term, manage old growth in patterns that provide for a flow of functions and interactions at multiple scales across the landscape through time.	151	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 DC-Veg-6 DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-9 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-20 Guide-Veg-7	
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	All analyses should be at multiple scales—one scale above and one scale below the ecosystem management areas.	151	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	The amount of old growth that can be provided and maintained will be evaluated at the ecosystem management area level and be based on forest type, site capability and disturbance regimes.	151	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 DC-Veg-6 DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-9 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-20 Guide-Veg-7	
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	Strive to create or sustain as much old growth compositional, structural and functional flow as possible over time at multiple area scales.	151	No		The emphasis of the revised plan is to maintain or trend towards the desired conditions, not to maximize one particular aspect of the landscape.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	Seek to develop or retain old growth function on at least 20 percent of the naturally forested area by forest type in any landscape.	151	No		This does not support attaining desired conditions described in the revised plan. The desired conditions for vegetation do not specify a desired percentage of Old Growth in the landscape.
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	Use information about pre-European settlement conditions at the appropriate scales when considering the importance of various factors.	151	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	Consider the effects of spatial arrangement on old growth function, from groups to landscapes, including de facto allocations to old growth such as goshawk nest sites, Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers, sites protected for species behavior associated with old growth, wilderness, research natural areas, and other forest structures managed for old growth function.	151	Yes	DC-Veg-1 DC-Veg-4 DC-Veg-6 DC-Veg-7 DC-Veg-9 DC-Veg-13 DC-Veg-17 DC-Veg-20 Guide-Veg-7	
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	In allocating old growth and making decisions about old growth management, use appropriate information about the relative risks to sustaining old growth function at the appropriate scales, due to natural and human-caused events.	151	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	Use quantitative models at the appropriate scales when considering the importance of various factors. These models may include, but are not limited to, Forest Vegetation Simulator, BEHAVE and FARSITE.	152	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision and should use current modeling and analysis methods.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix H. Old Growth Guidelines	Forested sites should meet or exceed the structural attributes to be considered old growth in the five primary forest cover types in the Southwest as depicted in the following table.	152	No		This does not reflect the current characterization of Old Growth as described by the desired conditions in the revised plan. The desired conditions were developed in conjunction with the Southwestern Regional Office based on updated scientific information.
Appendix I. Grazing Management Standards and Guideline	Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition that assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species.	155	No		This duplicates direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy.
Appendix I. Grazing Management Standards and Guideline	Identify key ungulate forage monitoring areas. These key areas will normally be one-quarter to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and be readily accessible for grazing. Size of the key forage monitoring areas could be 20 to 500 acres. In some situations such as high mountain meadows with perennial streams, key areas may be closer than one-quarter mile from water and less than 20 acres. Within key forage monitoring areas, select appropriate key species to monitor average allowable use.	155	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix I. Grazing Management Standards and Guideline	In consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, develop site-specific forage use levels. In the event that site-specific information is not available, average key species forage utilization in key forage monitoring areas by domestic livestock and wildlife should not exceed levels in the following table of this appendix during the forage growing season.	155	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is only initiated if federally-listed species are present. This is a project-level decision.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix I. Grazing Management Standards and Guideline	The following table is based on composition and climatic conditions typical of sites below the Mogollon Rim. On sites with higher precipitation and vegetation similar to sites above the Mogollon Rim, allowable use for ranges in poor to excellent condition under deferment or rest strategies may be increased by 5 percent. The guidelines established in the following table are applicable only during the growing season for the identified key species within key areas. Allowable use for key forage species during the dormant season is not covered in this table. These guidelines are to be applied in the absence of more specific guidelines currently established through site-specific NEPA analysis for individual allotments.	155	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix I. Grazing Management Standards and Guideline	Guidelines for allowable use for specific allotment(s) management or for grazing strategies not covered in the following table will vary on a site-specific basis when determined through the integrated resource management (IRM) process.	155	No		The revised plan is strategic in nature. This is program-level direction and is unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish projects. This is a project-level decision.
Appendix I. Grazing Management Standards and Guideline	Allowable use guidelines may be adjusted through the land management planning revision or amendment process. Guidelines established through this process to meet specific ecosystem objectives will also employ the key species and key area concept and will be monitored in this manner.	155	No		This direction was not carried over as it is specific to the 1987 Forest Plan. In the 2015 Plan, guidelines may be modified somewhat for a specific project if the intent of the guideline is followed and the deviation is addressed in a decision document with supporting rationale. When deviation from a guideline does not meet the original intent, however, a plan amendment is required.

Appendix E. Crosswalk of Direction between the 1987 Plan and the Revised Plan

1987 Plan Topic	1987 Plan Direction	1987 Plan Page #	Carry-Over	2015 Plan Direction	Rationale
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	No permitted livestock shall graze the Upper Grapevine Unit associated with the botanical area.	157	Yes	Std-CK MA-1	
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	No permitted livestock shall graze the Bootlegger Unit associated with the botanical area.	157	Yes	Std-CK MA-1	
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	No permitted livestock shall trail or drive through the botanical area.	157	Yes	Std-CK MA-1	
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	Permitted livestock shall be allowed to trail through the Bootlegger-Grapevine Unit on established roads to Road 87A to the Coyote Springs Trail to the Mesa Unit with no drifting allowed.	157	Yes	Std-CK MA-1	
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	No motorized use of Trails 4, 304 and 9432 shall occur.	157	Yes	Std-CK MA-1	
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	No mountain bike use of Trails 4, 304, and 9432 shall occur.	157	Yes	Std-CK MA-1	
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	Day use only shall occur within the botanical area.	157	Yes	Std-CK MA-1	
Appendix J. Grapevine Botanical Area	Fire should be managed through management-ignited prescribed burns and prescribed natural fires within the botanical area.	157	Yes	Guide-Wildland Fire-2	

Appendix F. Index of Other Supporting EIS Documentation

The following is a list of documents which significantly contributed to development of the EIS and/or are evaluations which were required by the 1982 Planning Rule provisions. These documents are available on the Prescott NF plan revision Web site⁸.

- Air Quality Specialist Report
- Analysis of the Management Situation
- Collaboration Report for Plan Revision
- Determination of Livestock Grazing Capability and Sustainability Report
- Documentation of Minimum Management Requirements
- Ecological Sustainability Report
- Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment
- Final Environmental Impact Statement for Integrated Treatment of Noxious or Invasive Weeds on the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests
- Fire/Vegetation Specialist Report
- Fisheries Specialist Report and Viability Analysis
- Forest Level Analysis of Management Indicator Species for the Prescott National Forest, 2009 Update
- Hydrology and Soils Specialist Report
- Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Report
- Recreation Specialist Report
- Recreation Suitability Matrix
- Research Natural Area Evaluation Process Summary Report
- Scenery and Open Space Specialist Report
- Socio-Economic Resource Report
- Southwestern Region Climate Change Trends and Forest Planning
- Terrestrial Species Viability Report
- Terrestrial Wildlife Specialist Report
- Timber Suitability, Long term Sustained Yield Capacity, and Allowable Sale Quantity Report
- Upper Verde River Eligibility Report Update for the National Wild and Scenic River System
- Vascular Plant Viability Analysis
- Vegetation and Fire Ecology Specialist Report

⁸ www.fs.usda.gov/land/prescott/landmanagement